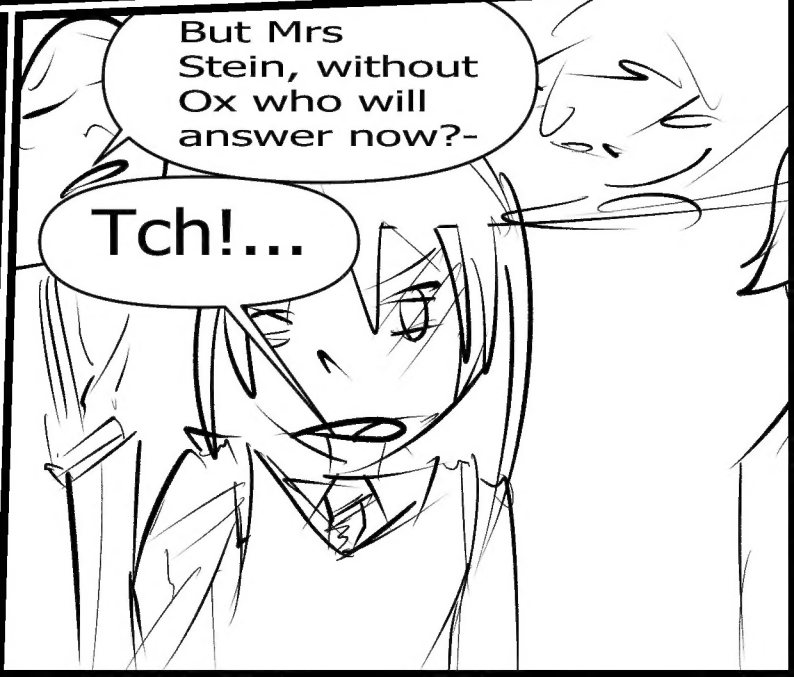
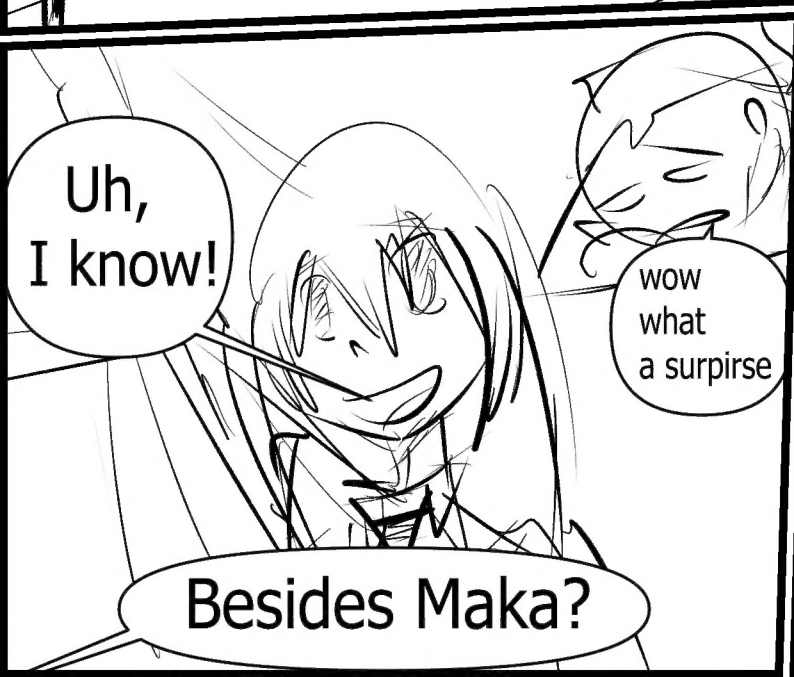
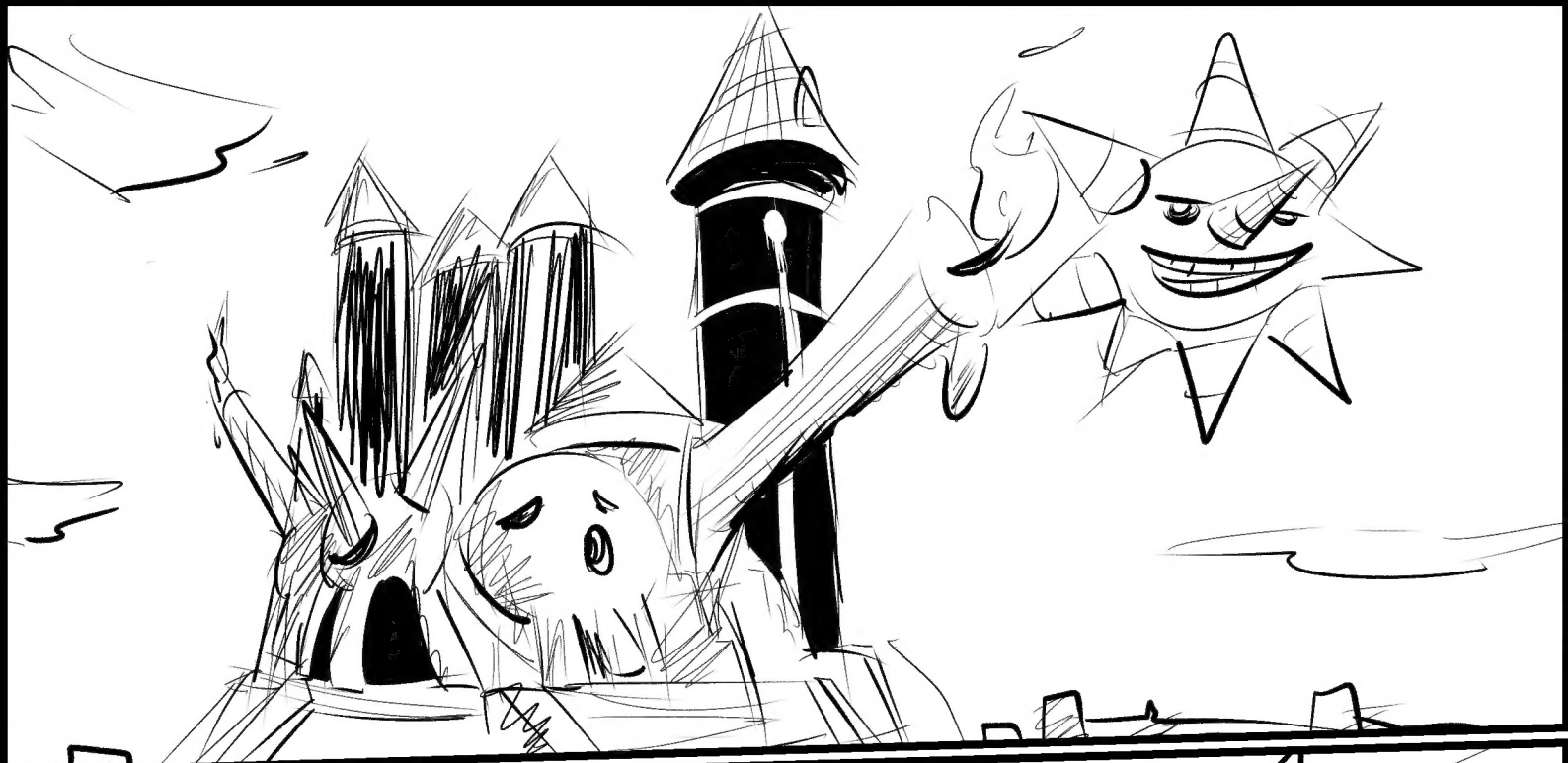


SOUL EATER

15

Post...

child, rebel,
soldier.
am I orphan
enough?






shiver



Oh, yes Crona,
do you know it?



Well, mum, I
think petroleum-



Wait did he
just call the
teacher mum
????!!!!



YIKES!

HAHAH

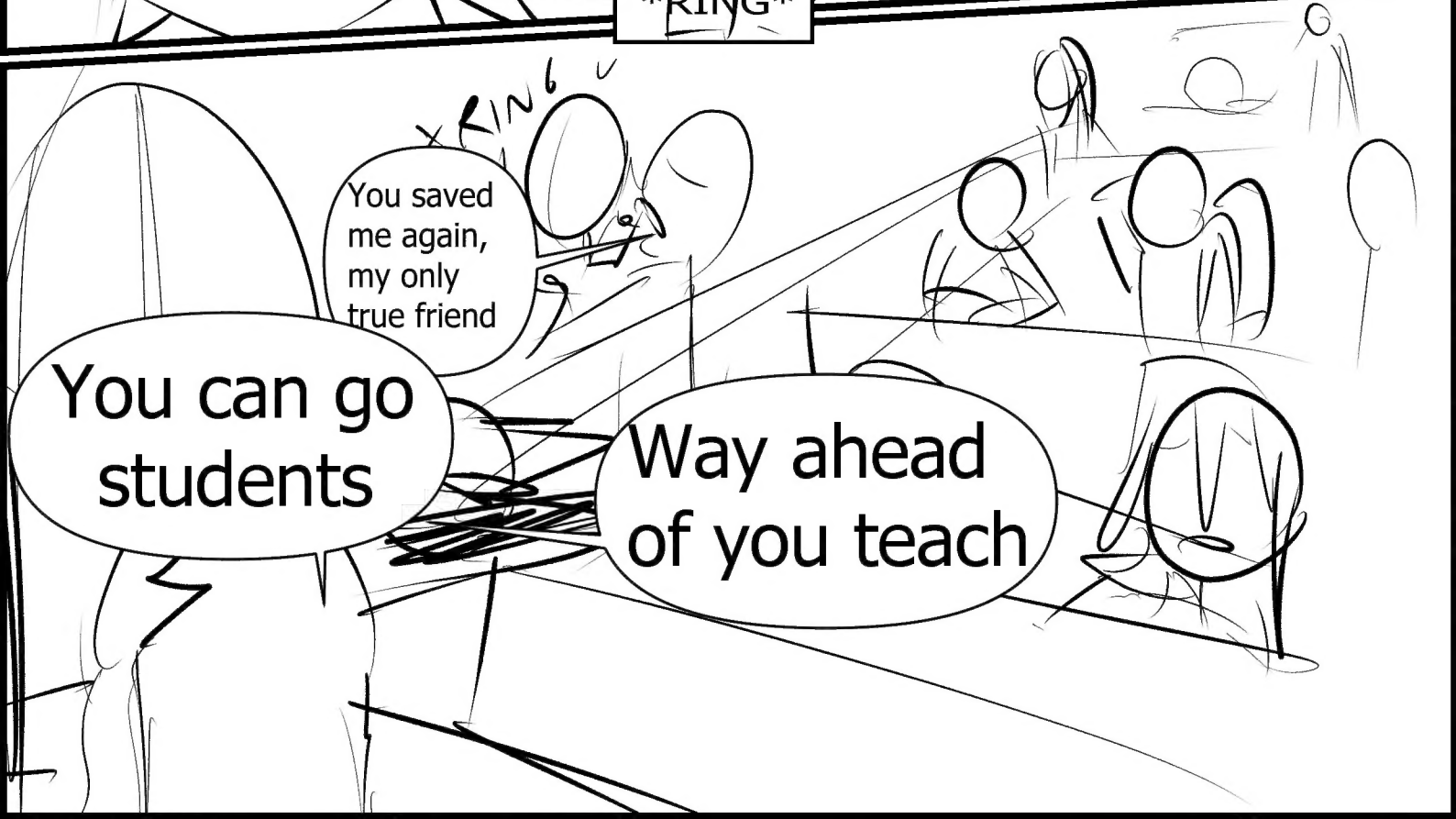
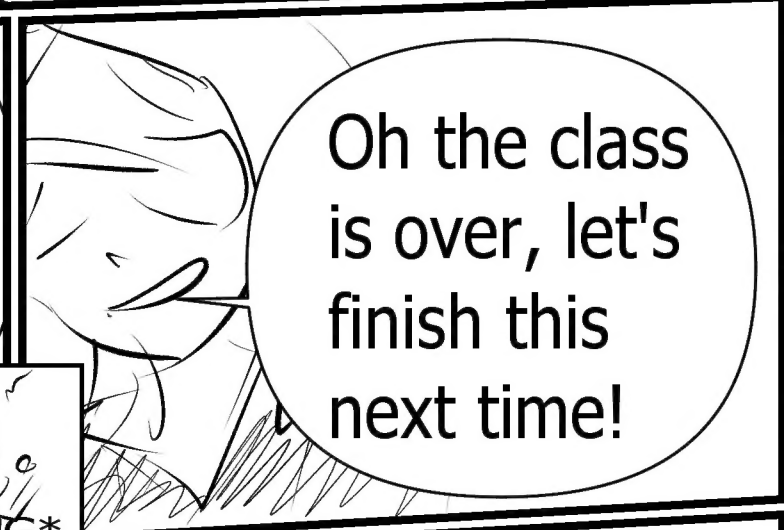
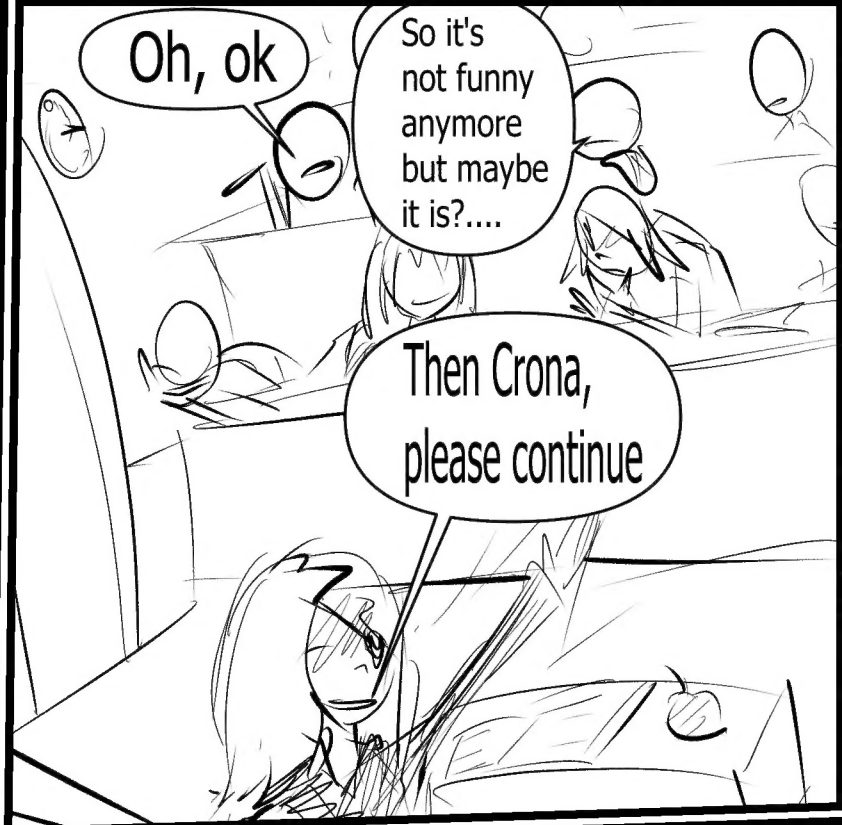
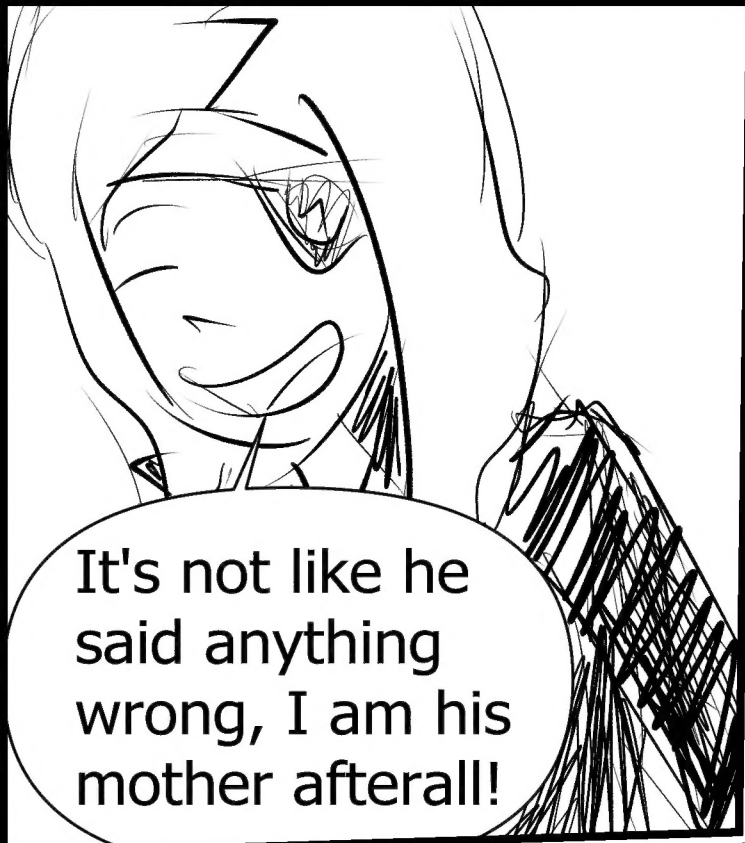
HOHOHO

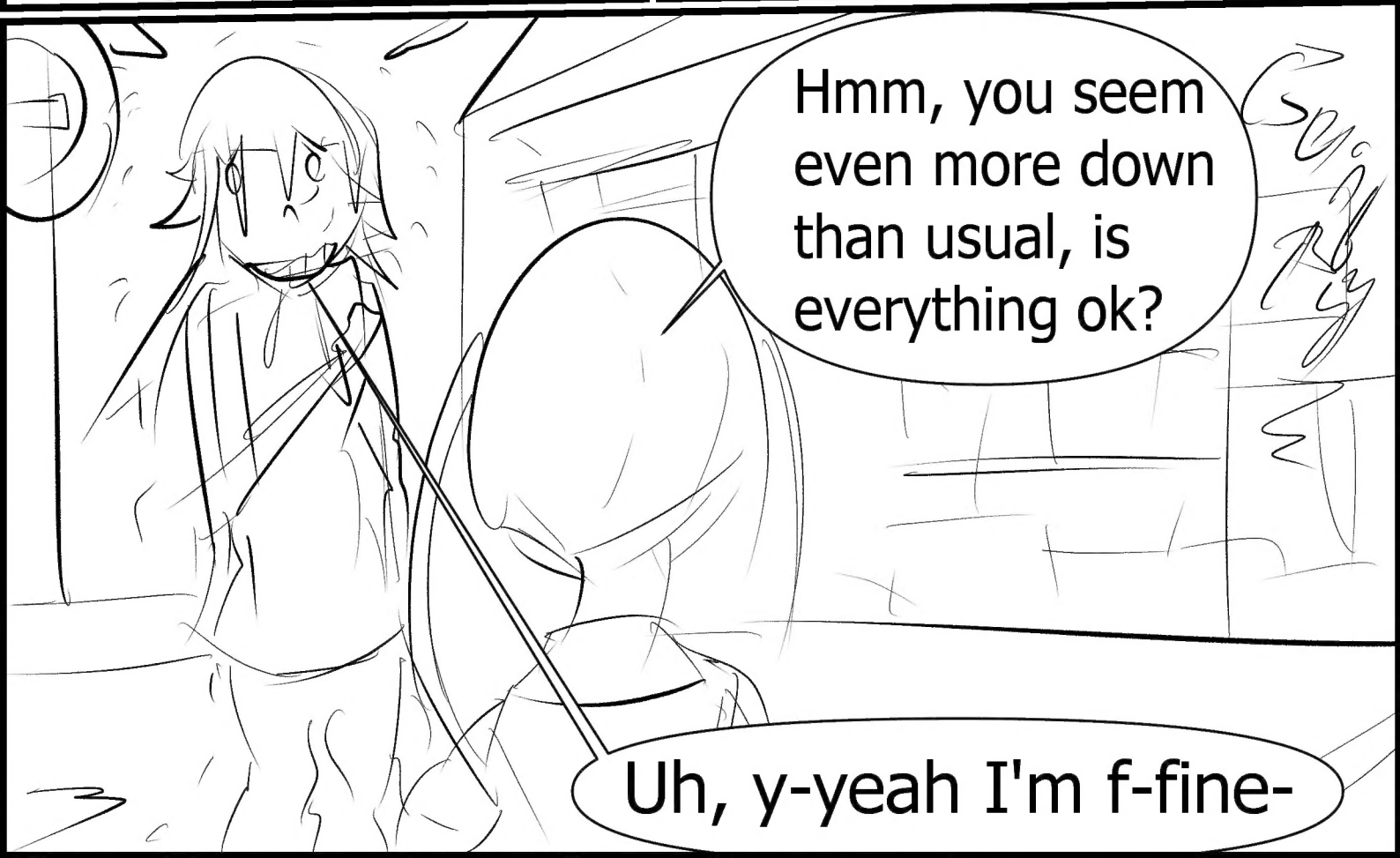
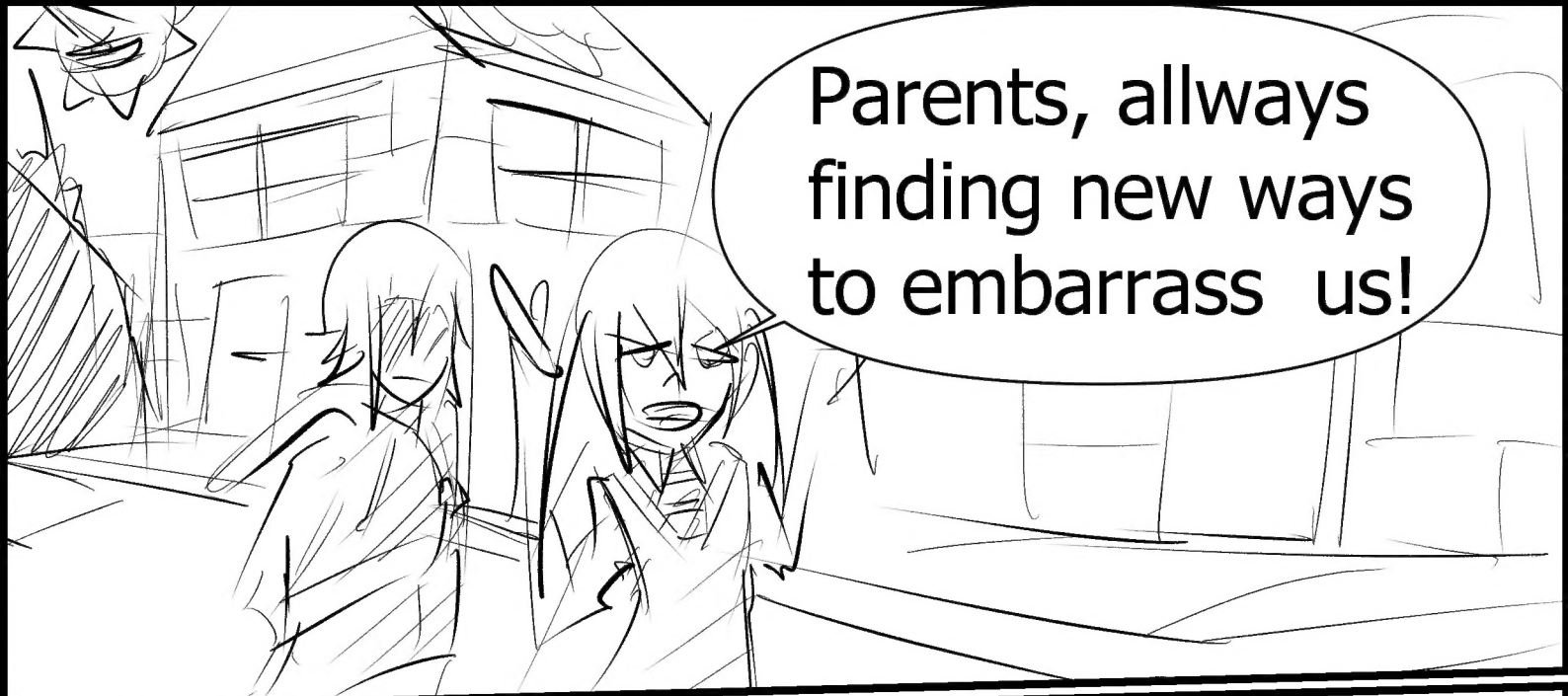
HIHIHI

HAHA

I'll wack
you all,
then we
see who's
laughing!

Whats all the fuzz about?

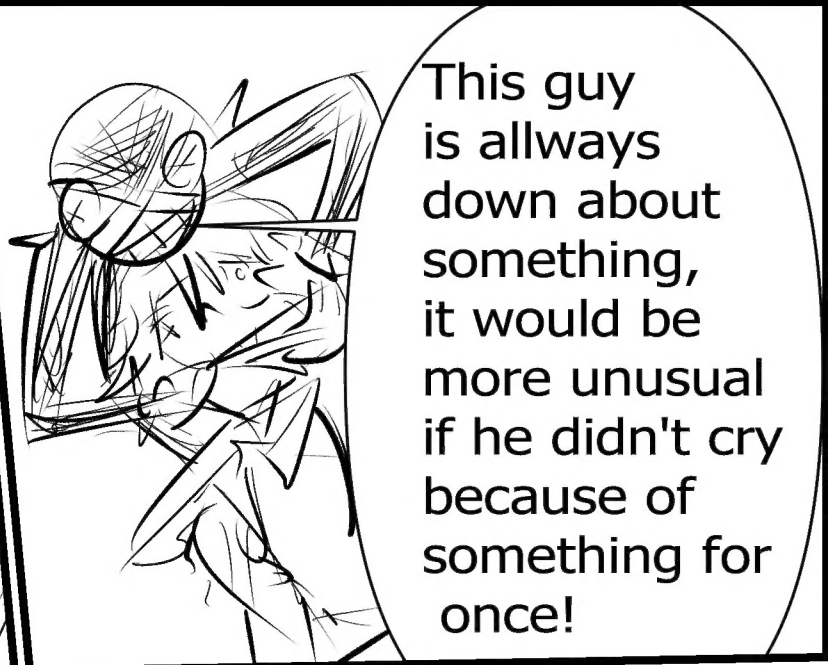






splash

What the
giupi are
you talking
about?!!

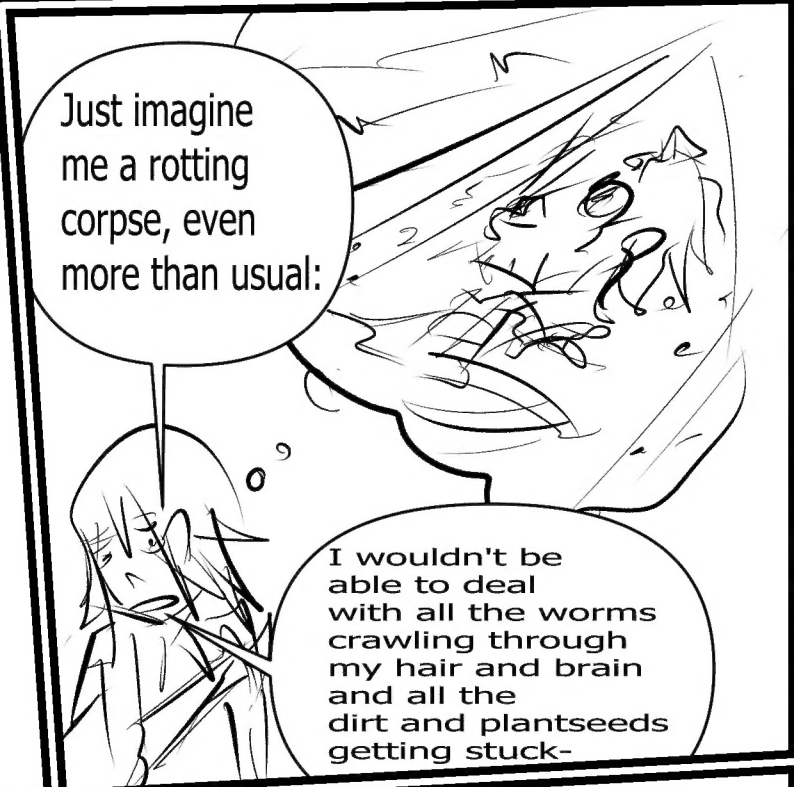


This guy
is allways
down about
something,
it would be
more unusual
if he didn't cry
because of
something for
once!



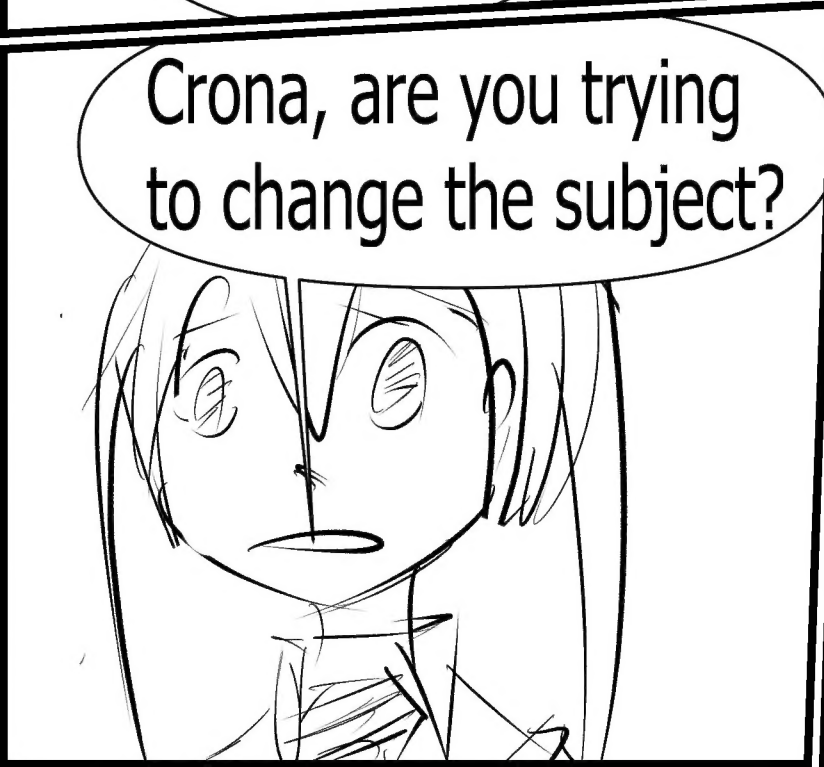
Hehe!

Yeah if
I was more
any more down,
I would be
underground

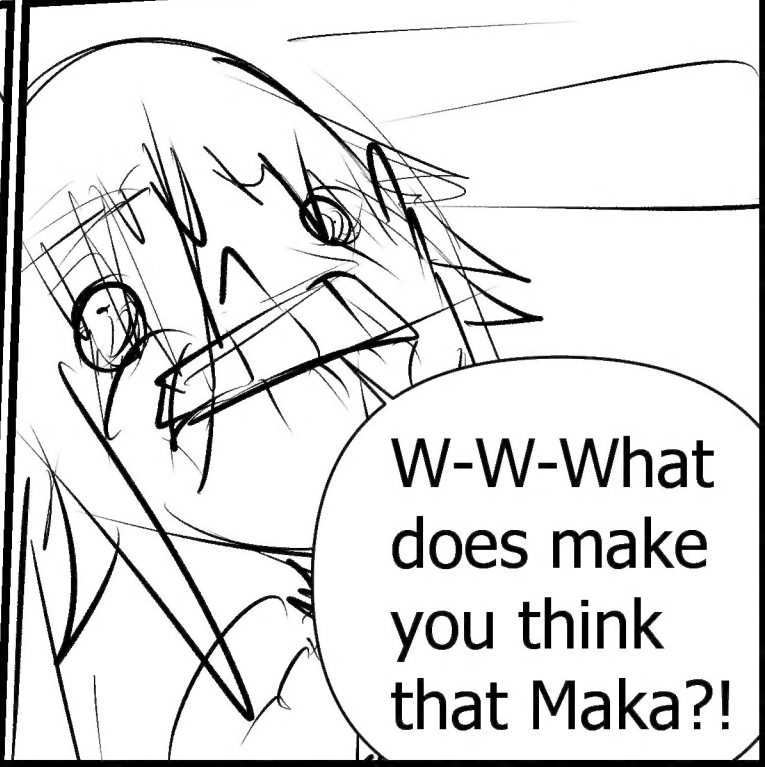


Just imagine
me a rotting
corpse, even
more than usual:

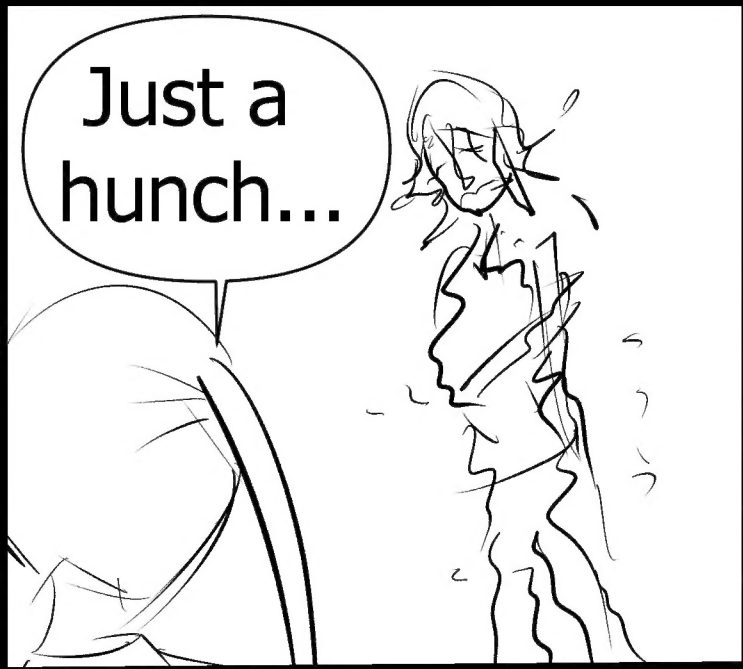
I wouldn't be
able to deal
with all the worms
crawling through
my hair and brain
and all the
dirt and plantseeds
getting stuck-




Crona, are you trying
to change the subject?



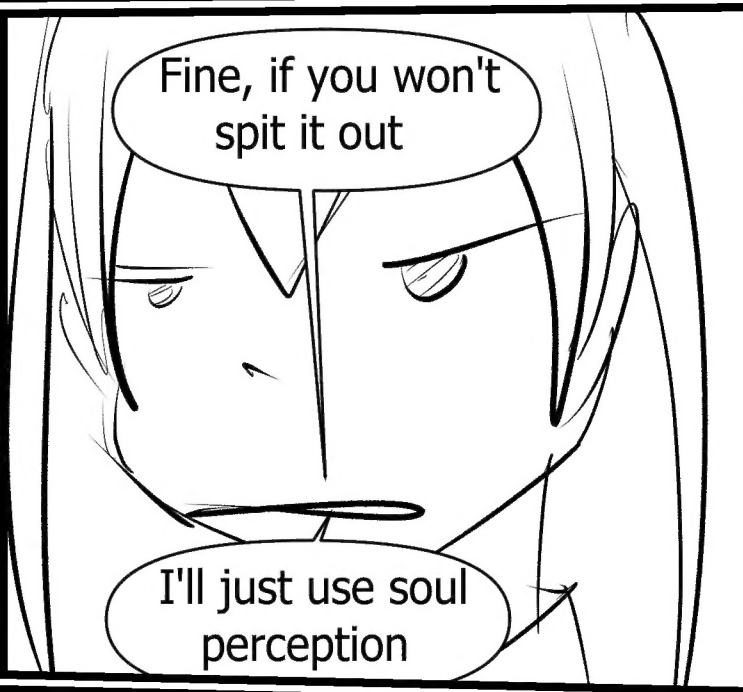
W-W-What
does make
you think
that Maka?!



Just a hunch...




Eh, maybe you are wrong like the time I mixed up salt with sugar and cinamon for chili when making that cake for-




Fine, if you won't spit it out

I'll just use soul perception



N000!-

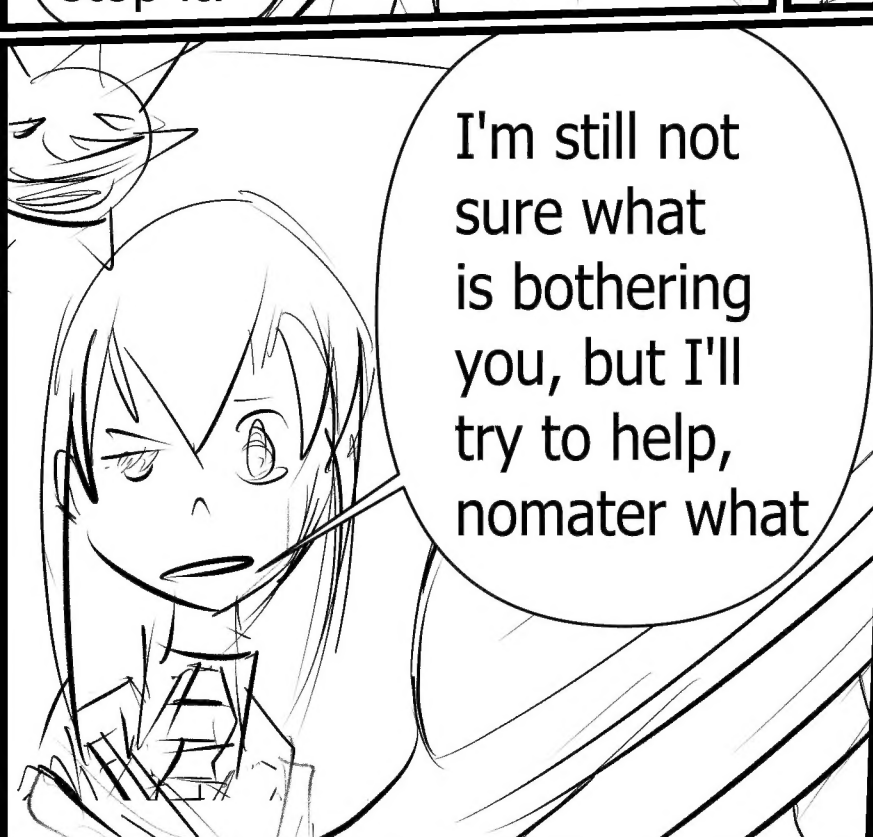
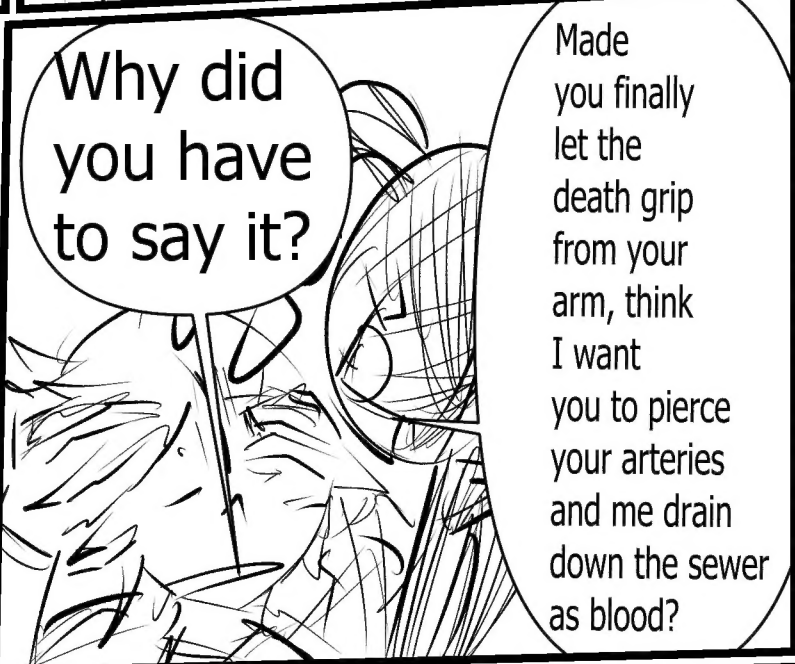
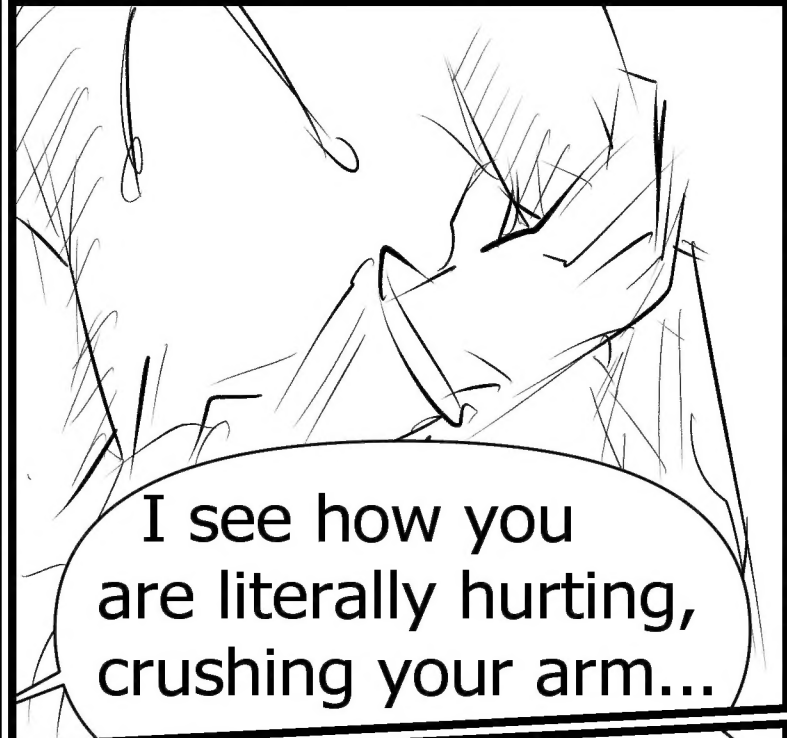



Ok ok, I won't




sigh

Because this is proof enough





Maka, you were the first person to show me kindness, so I didn't want to make you worry about my nonsense even more than usual



But if you really want to know, if it makes you worry less about me

...

After the party, when I was taking out the trash, I overheard something I shouldn't have:




I think mu-Marie is pregnant

Just because you heard a baby mentioned, they were probably talking about you!



Oh, that's unexpected...



Is what I would want to say

W-what?!!

They say a meister that has mastered their craft can sense a soul even at the moment of conception

Soul perception,
maybe my biggest
talent as you know,
it was even strong
enough to find you
when you were fighting
Medusa

Learn
humbleness

I gotten so good at it that sometimes
I sense things even if I don't try to



and the same thing happened
when we went to Stein's lab the one time
he announced the wedding

For a moment
I sensed something
different with
Mary but I didn't
want to pry and
just dismissed it
as a fluke

But with
the things
you said,
it only
confirms
what I
thought

So if I could feel it, so
so could Stein, the best
meister at the DWMA

What I'm trying
to say is that you
have nothing to
worry about, they
took you in while
knowing about that,
so they won't just
abandon you

Thank you
Maka

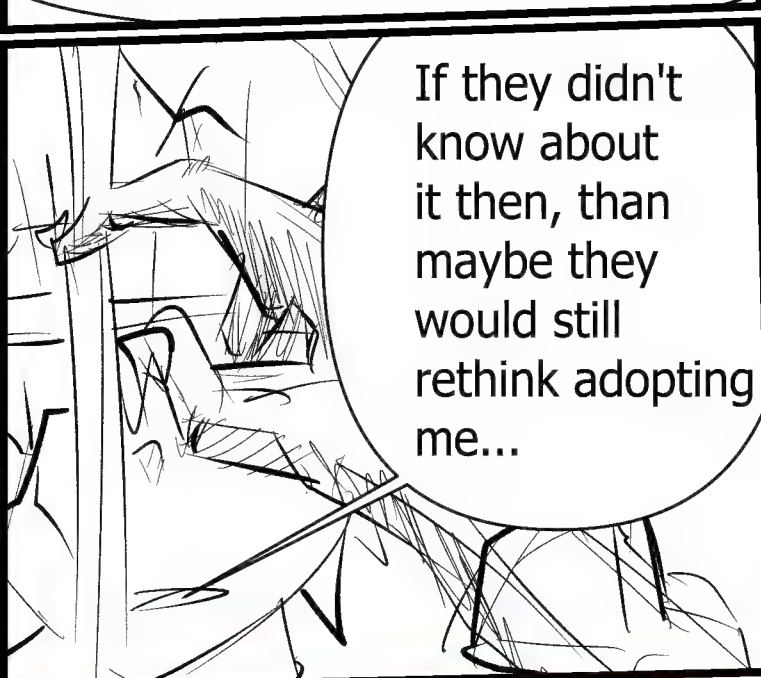
but...



That is the problem



I don't get it



If they didn't know about it then, than maybe they would still rethink adopting me...

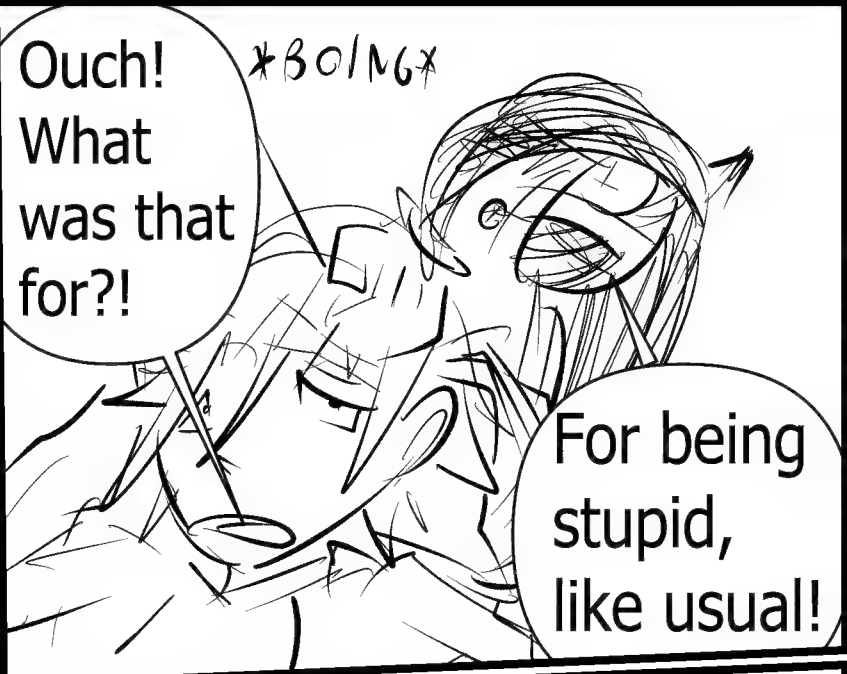
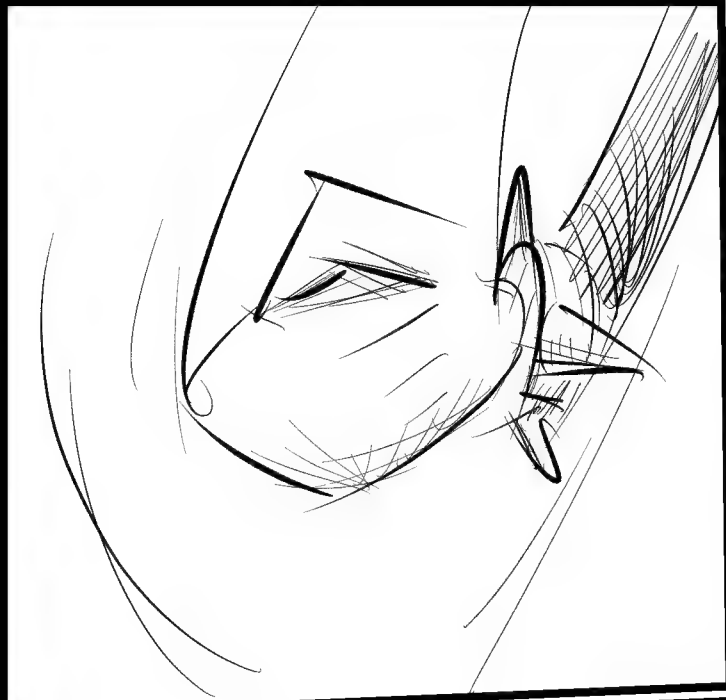


Taking care of me after all I did, I didn't get it, but if they wanted to, it was the least I could do...

But now, if they have their own child, I will be just an even bigger burden on them



I thought that for once I finally will do some good, but once again I just ruin everything



Ouch!
What
was that
for?!

BOING

For being
stupid,
like usual!

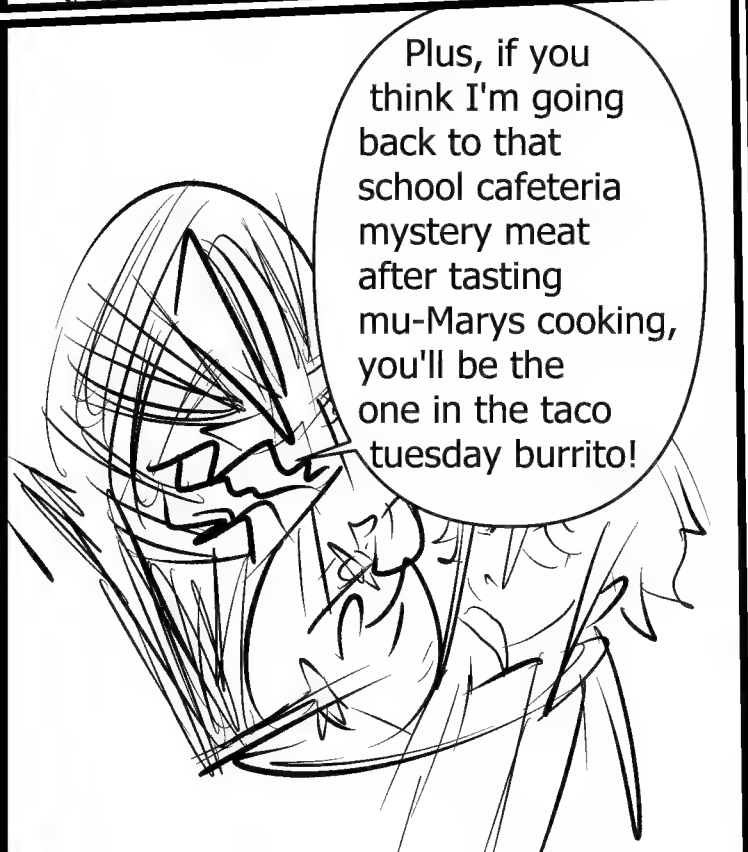


They took in a screw up
like you and instead
of kissing their asses
and being thankful you
throw this melodramatic
pity party?!!

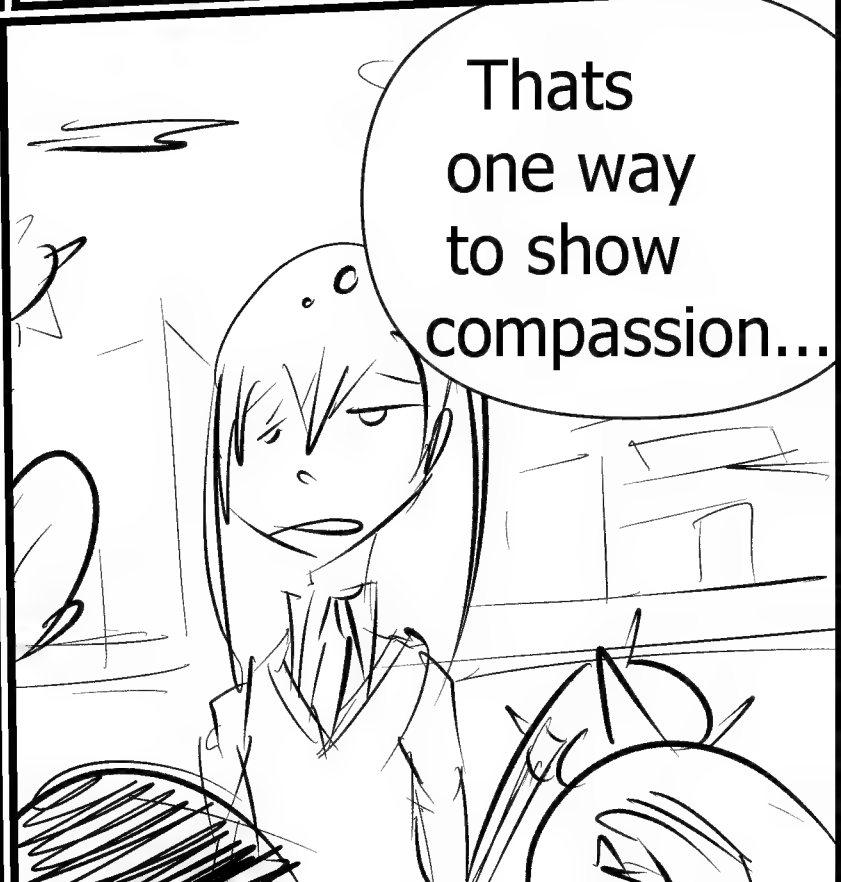


You may not
get it, but you
also don't get
anywhere without
having five mental
breakdowns!

So maybe
just appreciate
your luck
for once
instead of
making it
about poor
irredeemable
Crona!!!



Plus, if you
think I'm going
back to that
school cafeteria
mystery meat
after tasting
mu-Marys cooking,
you'll be the
one in the taco
tuesday burrito!



Thats
one way
to show
compassion...



I think
what
Ragnarok
is trying
to say is-

I ment what
I ment, don't
chew it back!



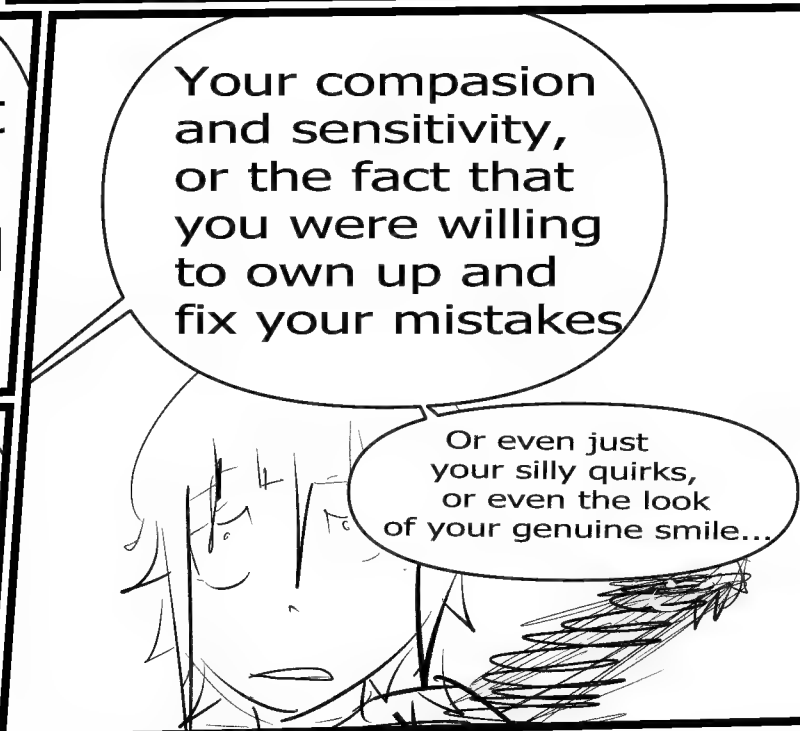
You must mean
a lot to Stein and
Mary, they didn't
do it out of obligation
or pity
They must see
the good in you
that you allways
try to downplay



And what
is that
supposed
to be?

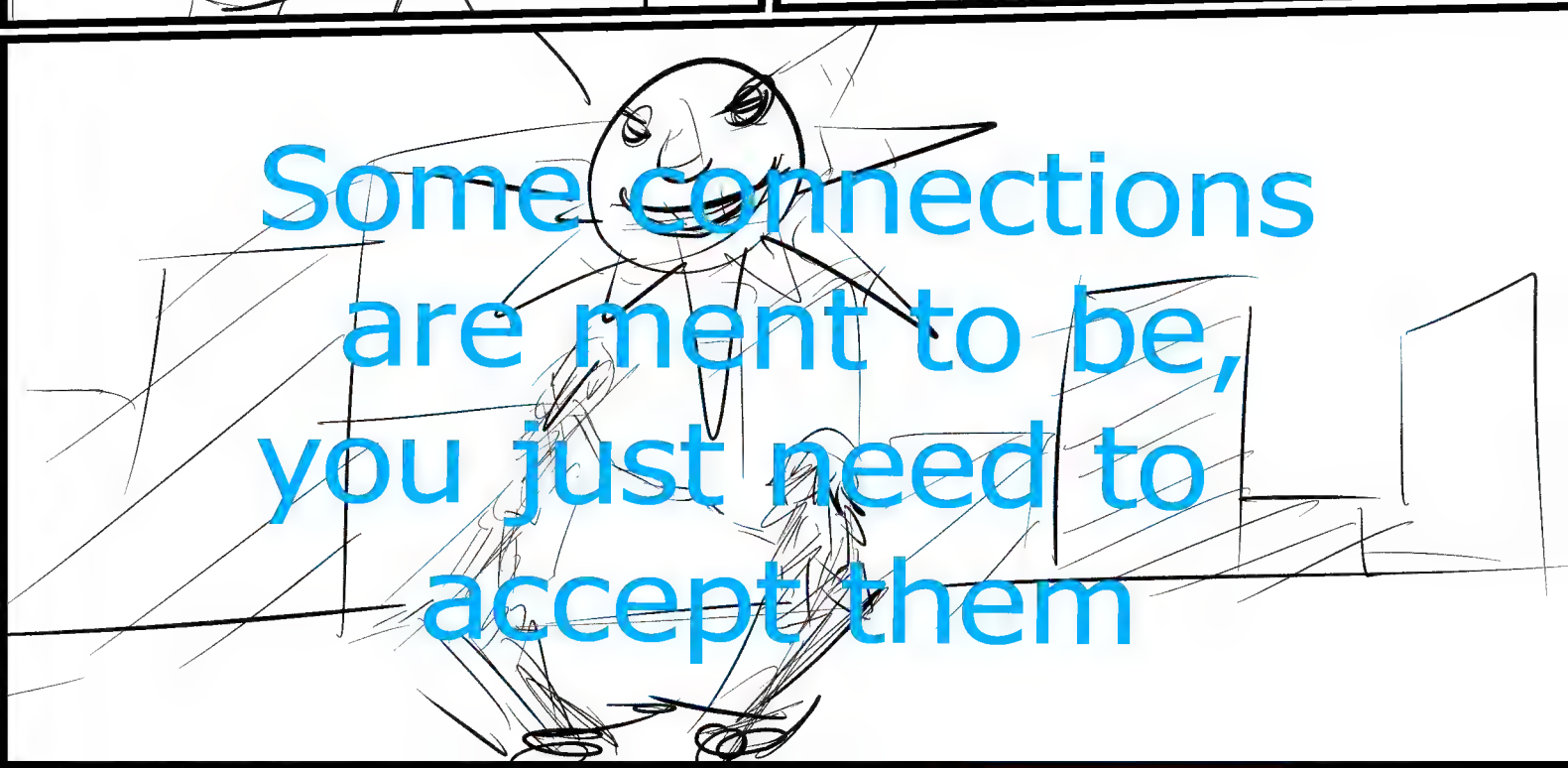


You saving
me from
Medusa,
just as an
example

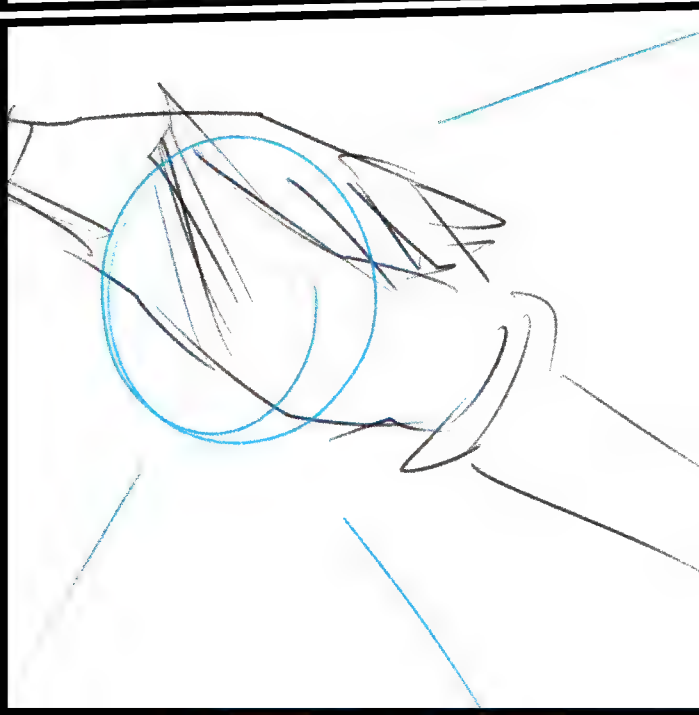


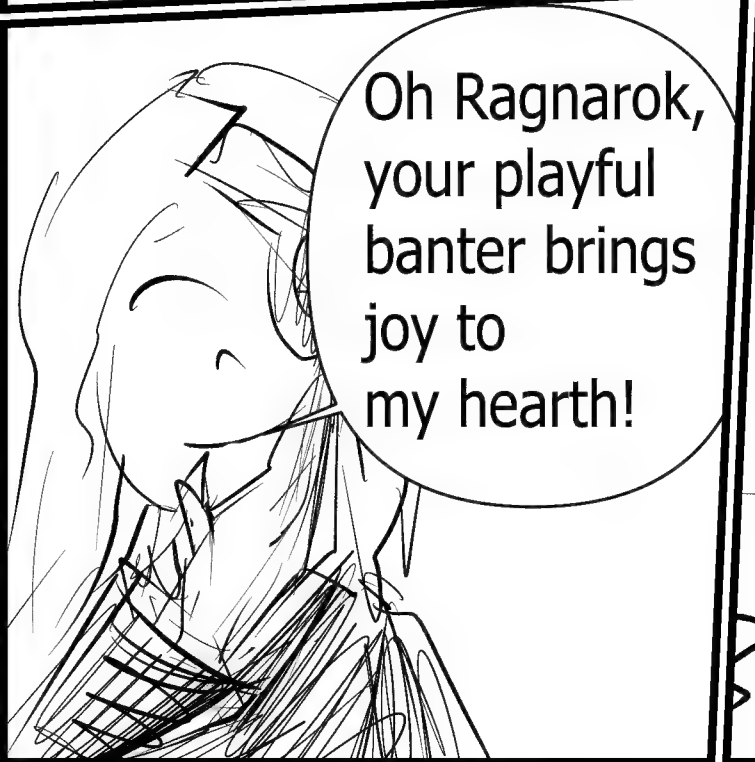
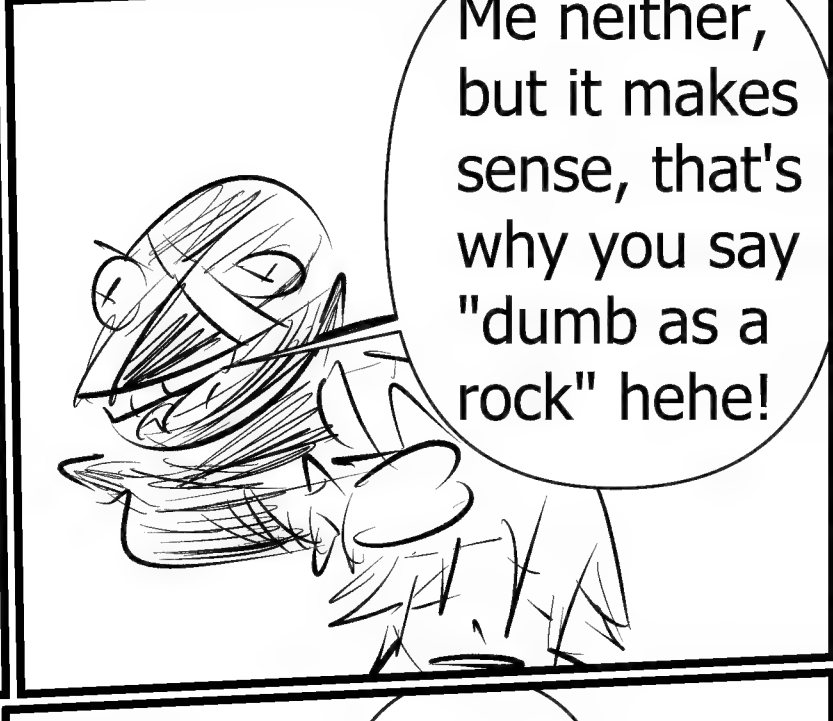
Your compasion
and sensitivity,
or the fact that
you were willing
to own up and
fix your mistakes

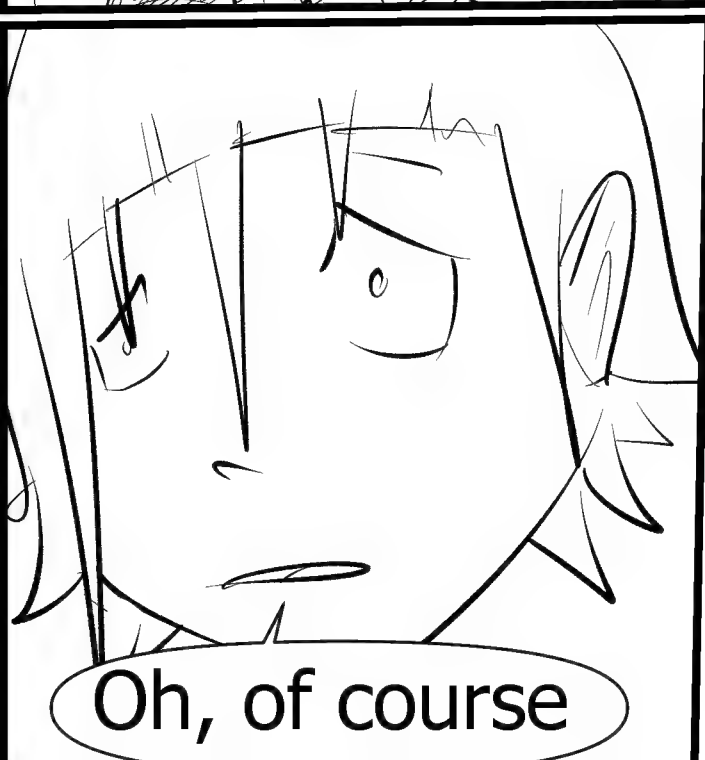
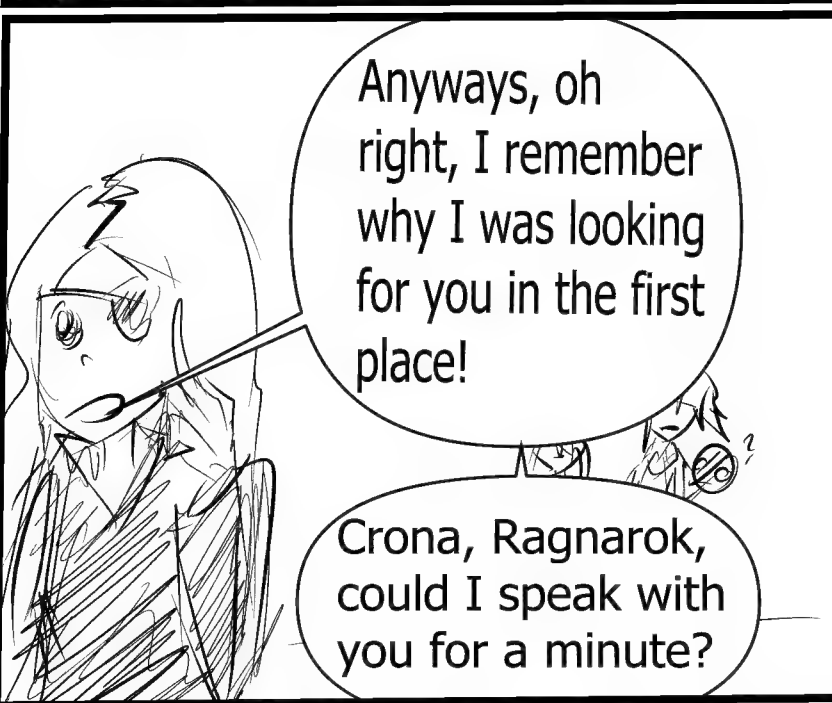
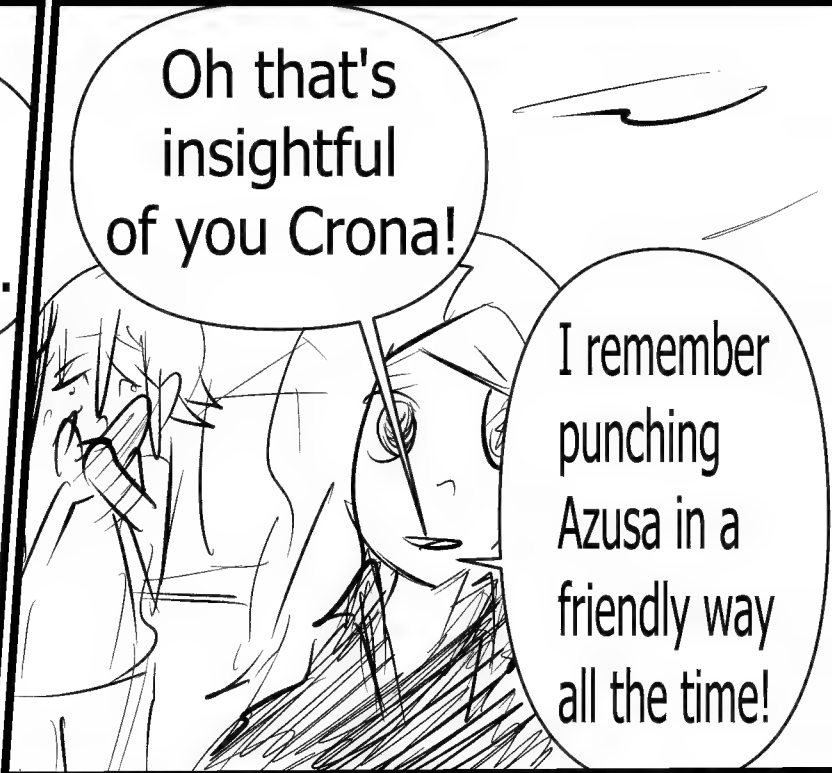
Or even just
your silly quirks,
or even the look
of your genuine smile...



Some connections
are ment to be,
you just need to
accept them

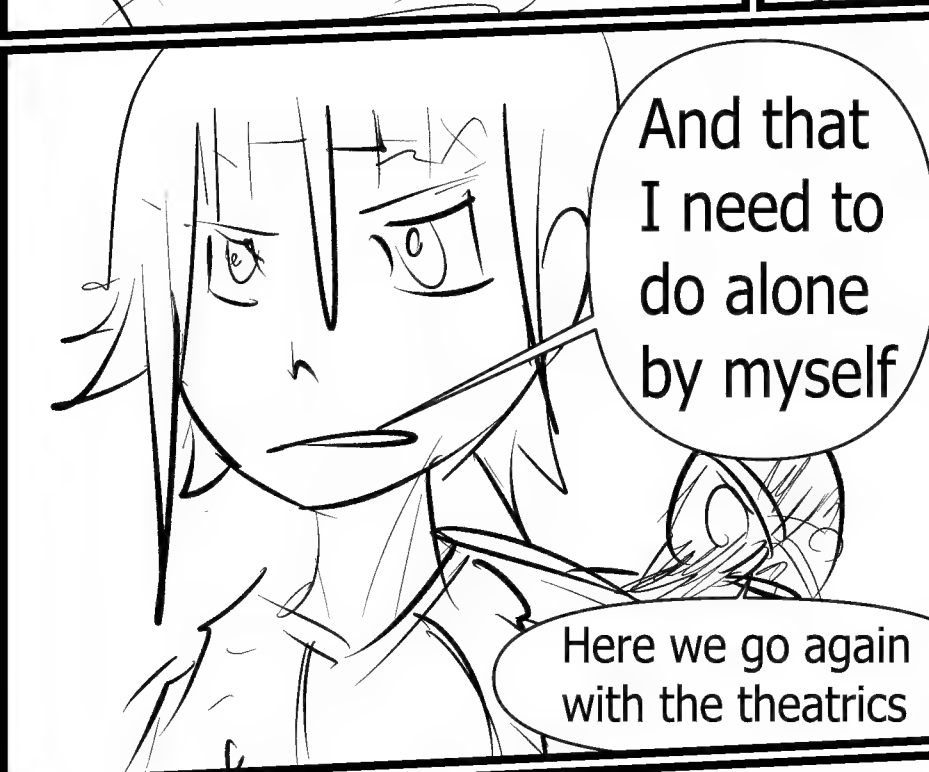






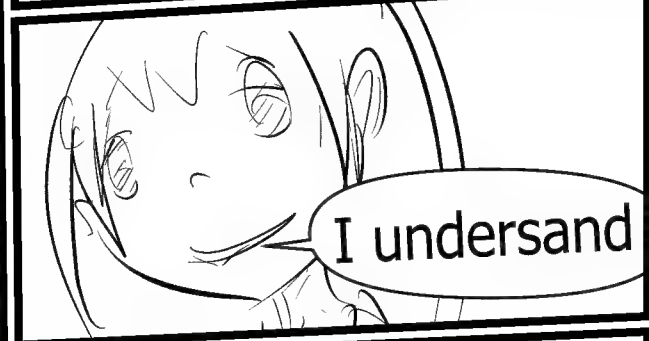
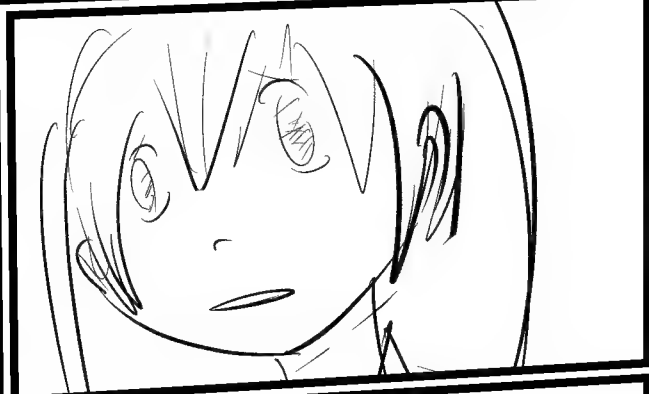


Thank you
Maka, without
you I wouldn't
have the courage
to do what I need
to do

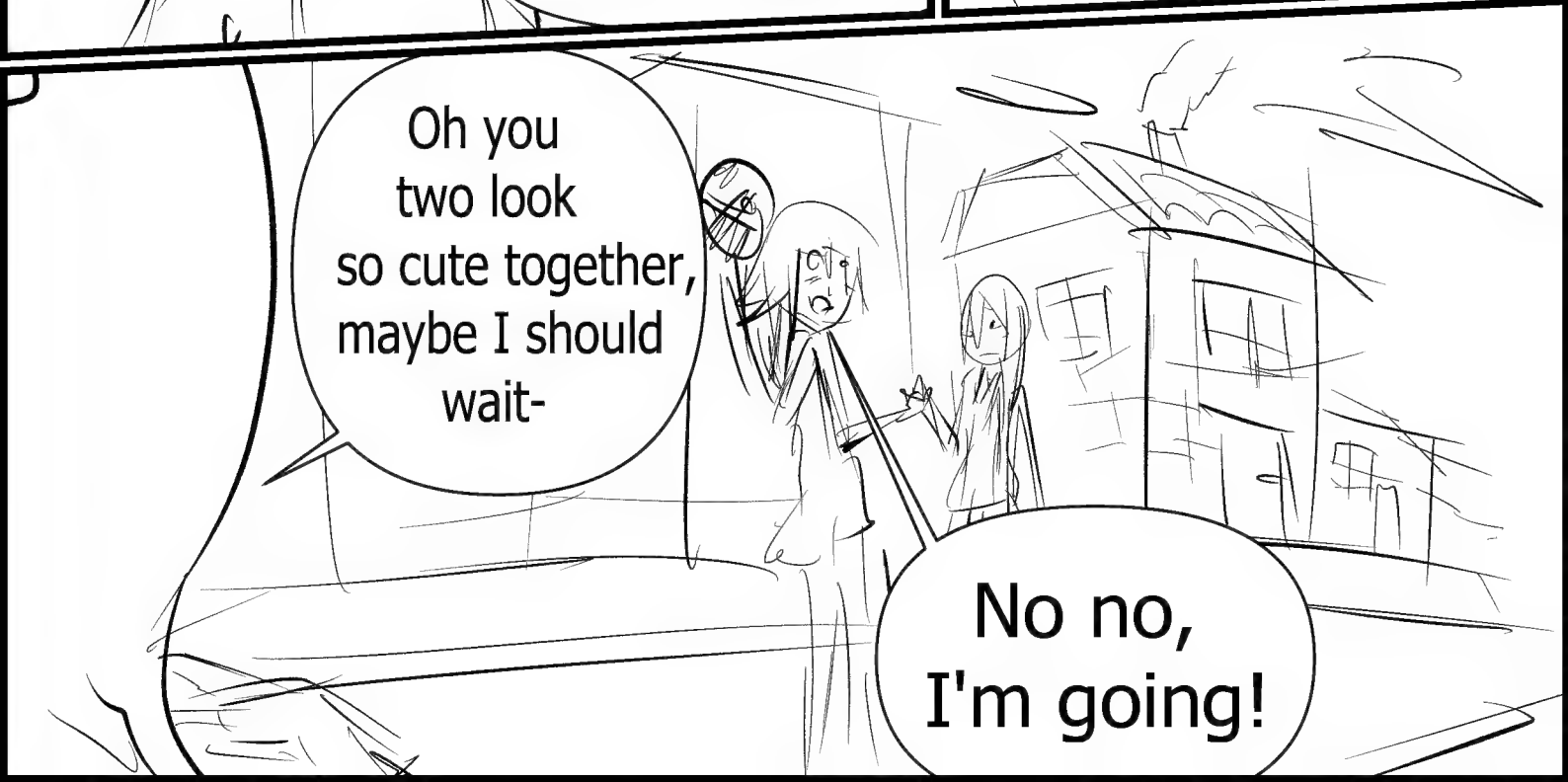


And that
I need to
do alone
by myself

Here we go again
with the theatrics



I undersand



Oh you
two look
so cute together,
maybe I should
wait-

No no,
I'm going!



What where
you two lovebirds
talkin about?

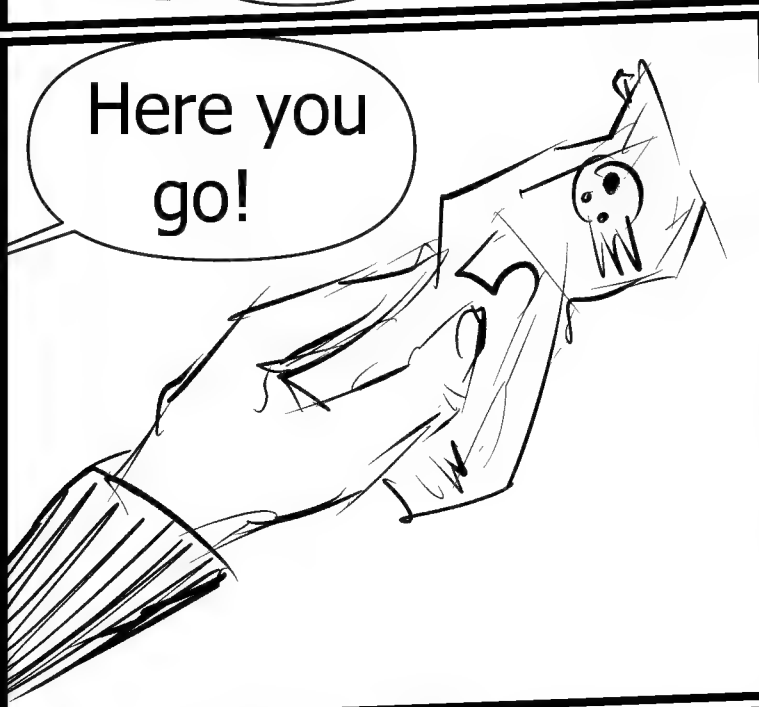
We-we
are not-

Oh, eh,
nothing
much...



Secrets
between
friend, I
understand

Eh-uh
right...

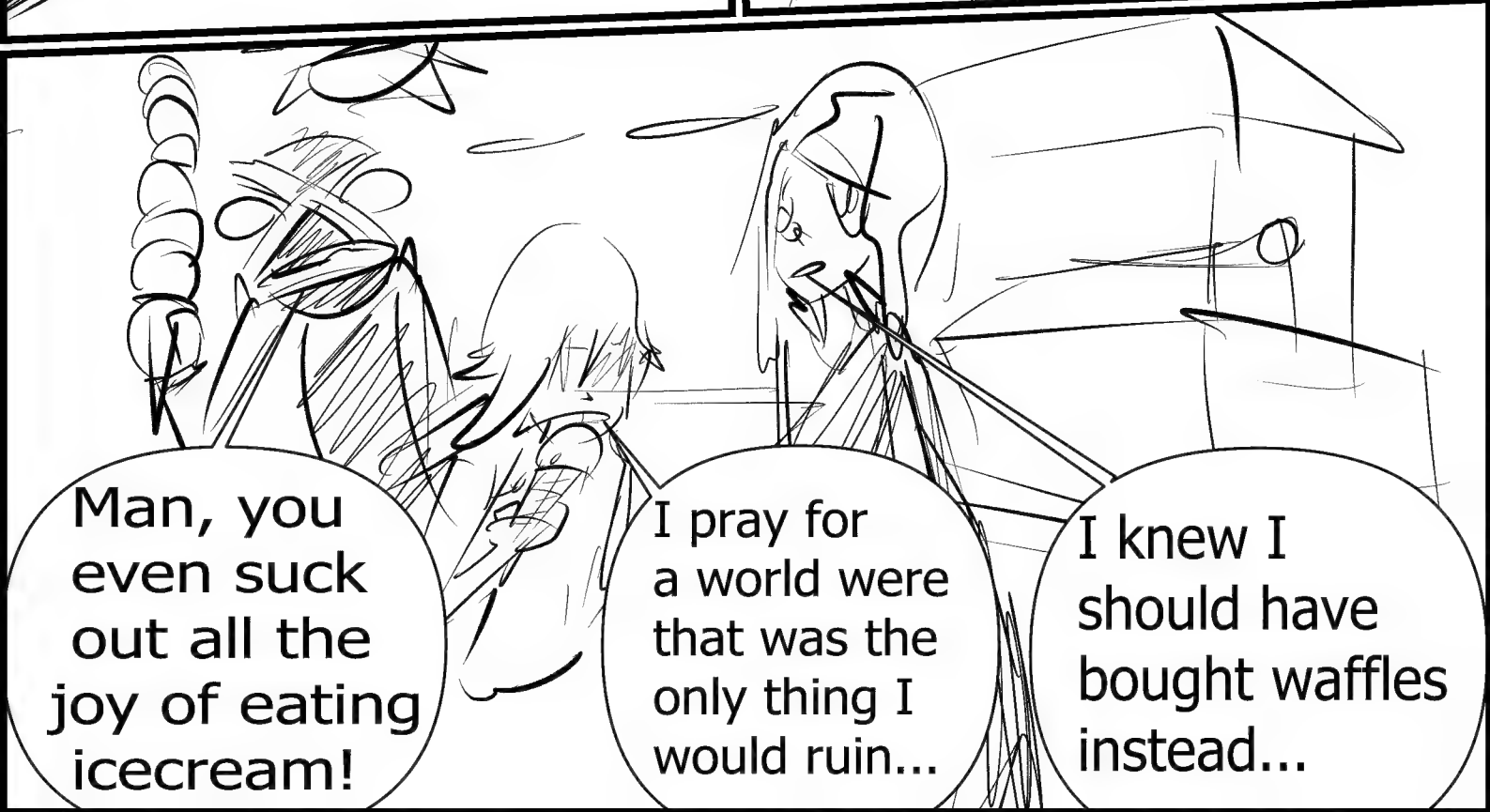


Here you
go!



Don't you
want a
more
adventurous
flavor than
vanilla?

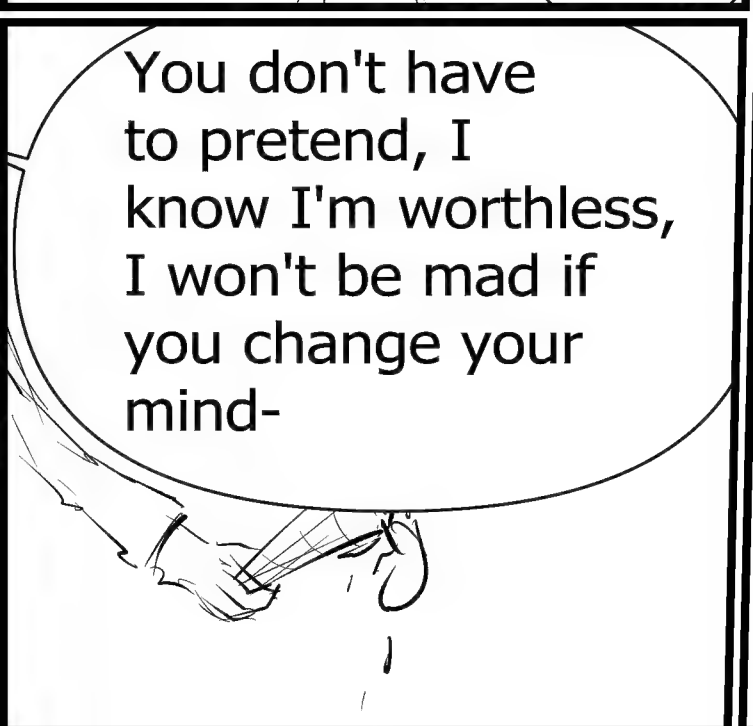
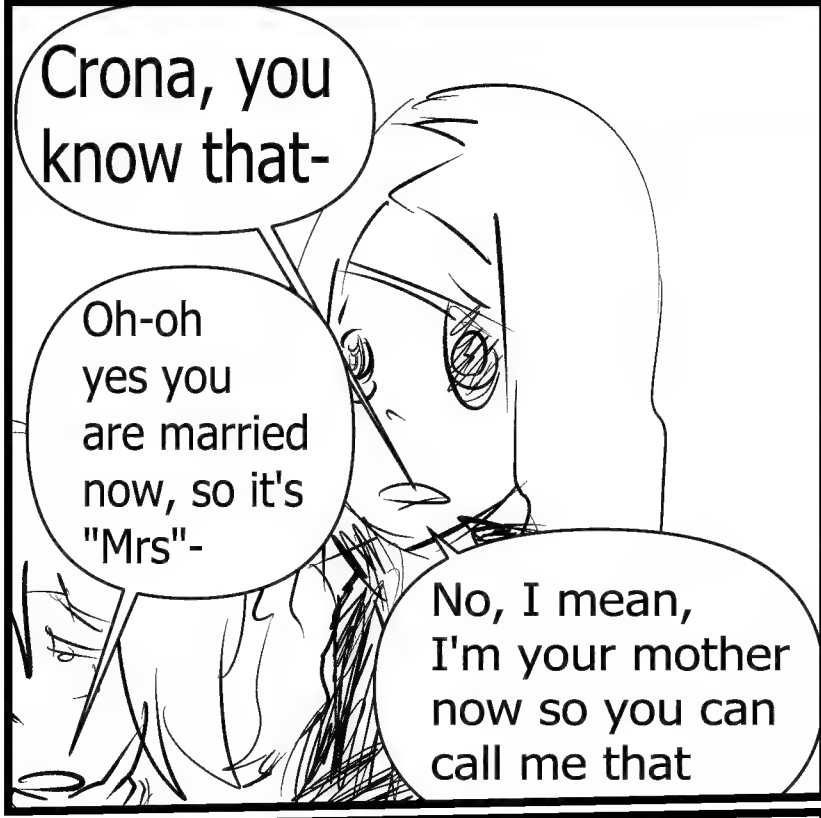
It may be mediocre,
but it atleast won't
be more disappointing
than another one that
I might not like...



Man, you
even suck
out all the
joy of eating
icecream!

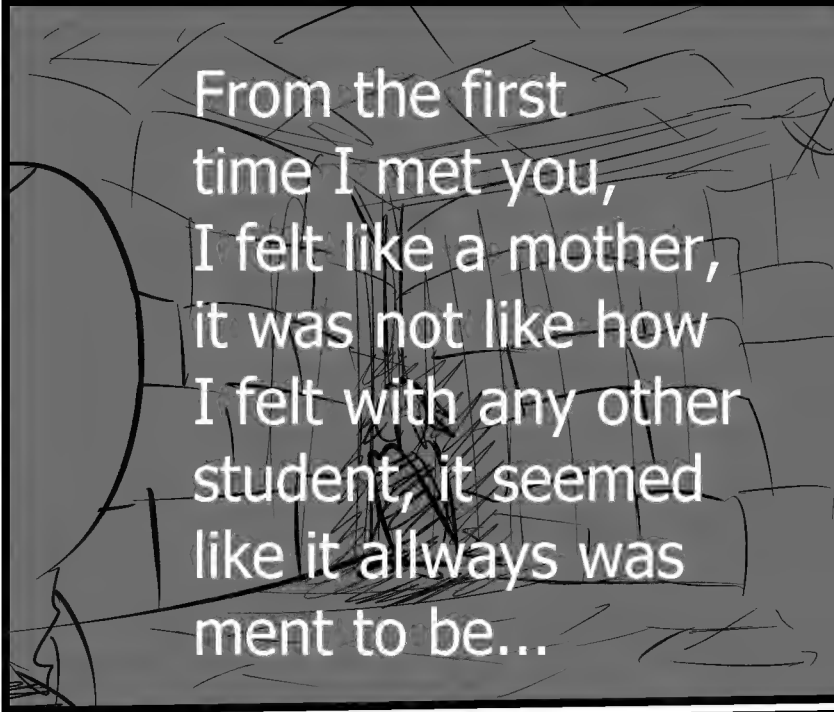
I pray for
a world were
that was the
only thing I
would ruin...

I knew I
should have
bought waffles
instead...





Oh my
poor
child...



From the first
time I met you,
I felt like a mother,
it was not like how
I felt with any other
student, it seemed
like it always was
ment to be...



As if you
were a
baby stolen
from his crib,
finally back
home...



You may think
I'm too kind, but
I'm selfish, I was
when I didn't forgive
you and in a sense I
am selfish now to



Bu-but
what about
all the other,
Liz, Patty,
Blackstar...
So many
orphans that-



I didn't
adopt you
out of duty
or even out
of guilt or
anything of
that sorts

But I did it
out of love,
motherly love
that you can't
explain with
no fancy logic



B-bu-but
H-ho-how
can I-I
take that
away from
you when
you will have
your own flesh
and blood who
deserves it, how
can I rob
you off that!

What do you-

Wait, you
mean you
know?!?

I-I
overheard
it and then
Maka-

Oh no,
that totally
ruined the
surprise!


I'll have to
have a stern
talking with
Maka about
invasion of
privacy...




Please don't
say anything
to her! I couldn't
deal with ruining
her grade-average,
what if she tries
to study extra
hard and gets
crushed to death
by a pile of
books!

Eh, nono
I wouldn't
do that


How
considerate
of him...




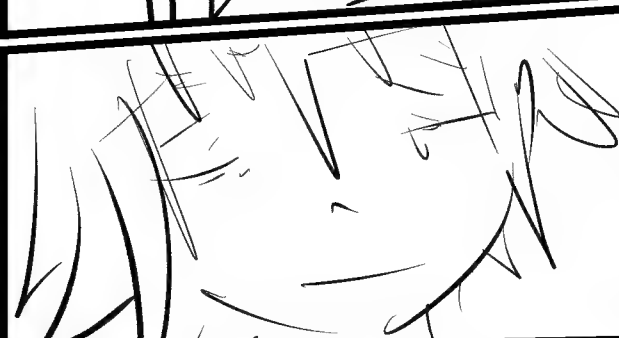
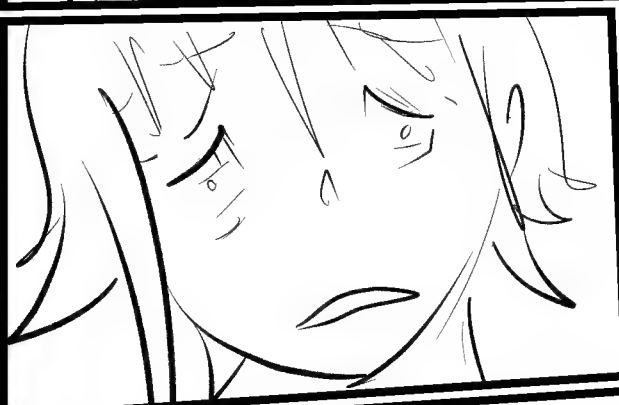
But Crona,
I want you
to know that
no matter what,
I won't
abandon you



Even if you
somehow
were a
burden




Because what
kind of mother
would I be
otherwise?




And also
with the
baby coming
up, I will have
three children,
which in retrospect
makes it look like
I didn't get married
as a old hag!



3?




Of course,
did you think I
forgot about
you Ragnarok?



Seems I'm late for
the show of physical
affection





How peculiar,
even though
I cut up five
of these gnomes,
they show no sign
of retreating


You
better
have a
plan...



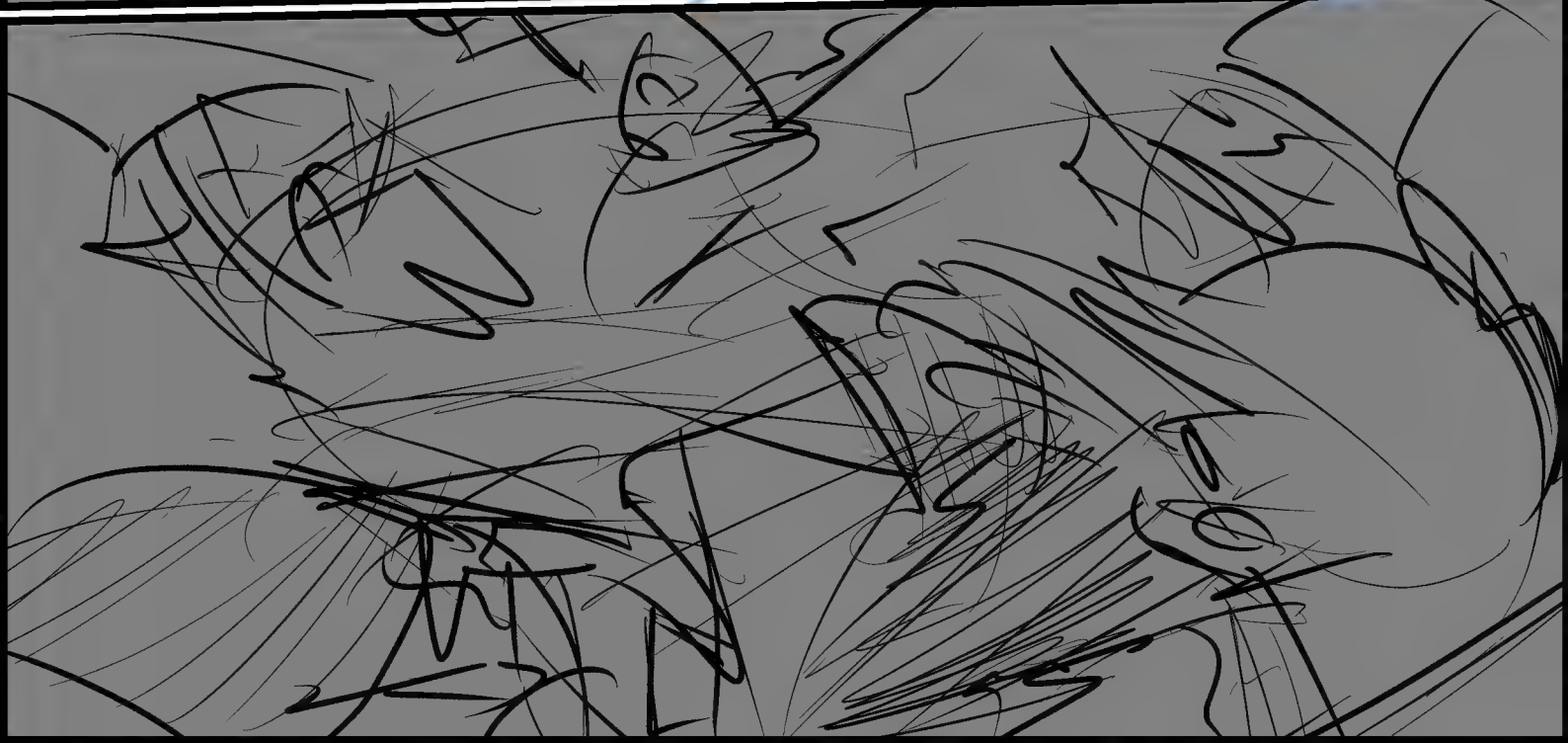
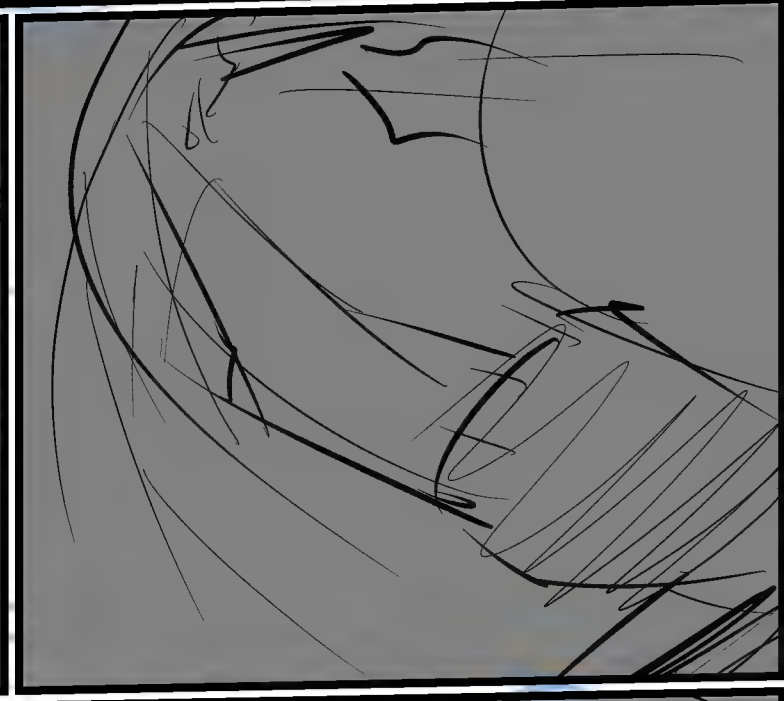
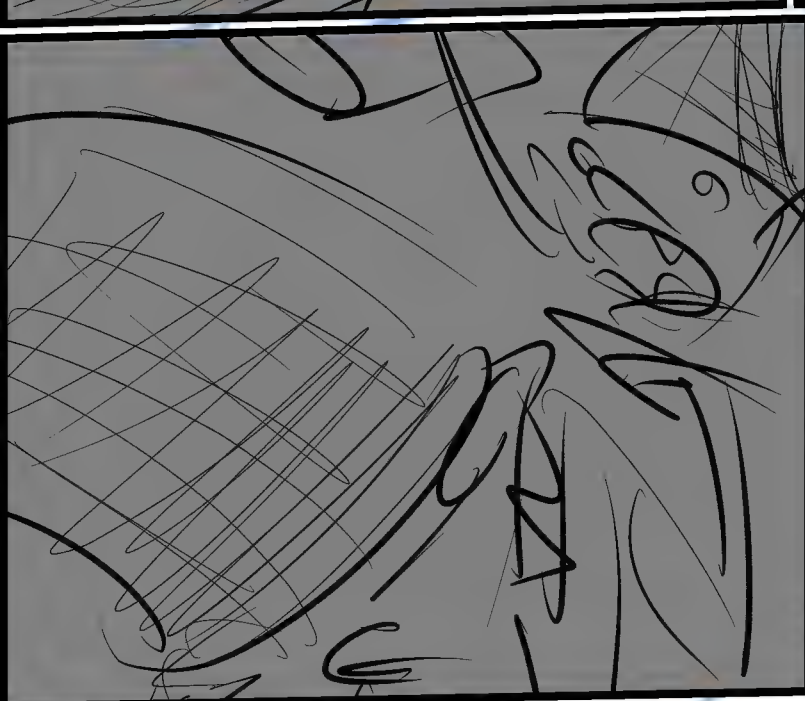
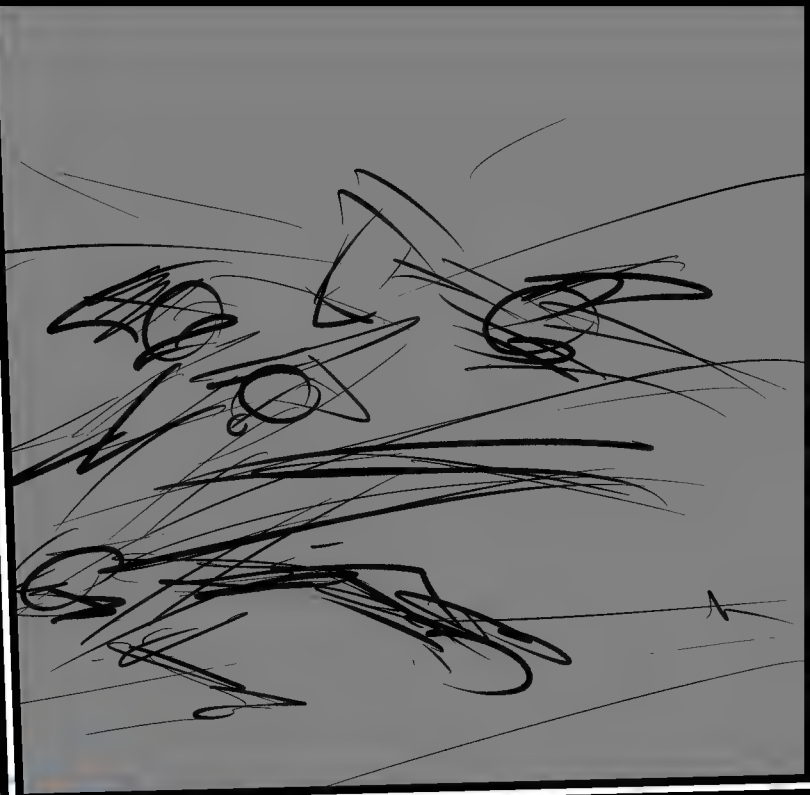
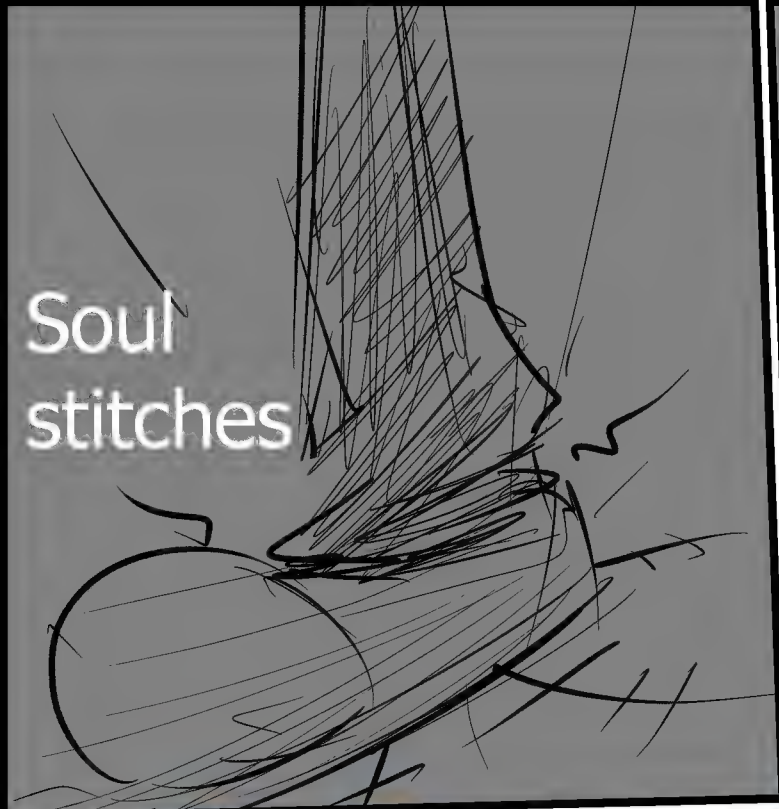
Yigggh!



Auuuooo!



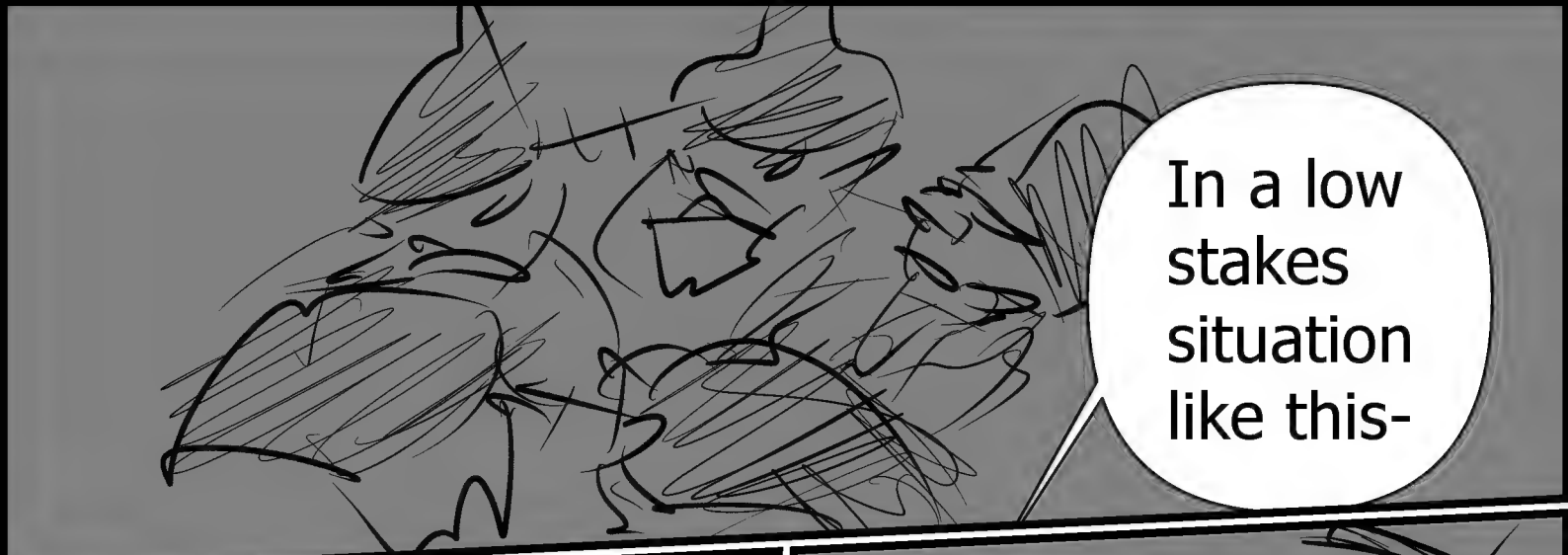
Spirit,
I thought
that after
all this time
you would
know me
better than
this





Soul stitches

You should
have recalled
that-



In a low
stakes
situation
like this-



CONTRACT!



swish



It's more fun
just to improvise



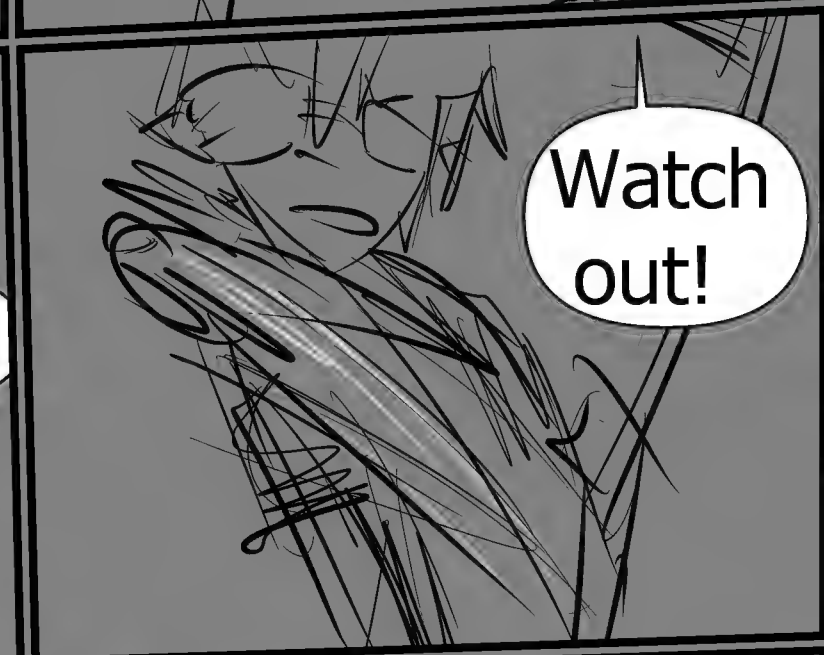
Heh, guess
I was worried
for nothing



Hmm...
Wait, one
kishinegg
is-



Guigah!



Watch
out!



I'll have
to thank
Mary for
buying me
these spiked
treking shoes




I wish I had
a wife that
cared that
much or a wife
in general...

Anyways,
it seems
we have
reached a
dead end
again - no
witches, just
some kishineggs
wanting to
achieve gnomesis

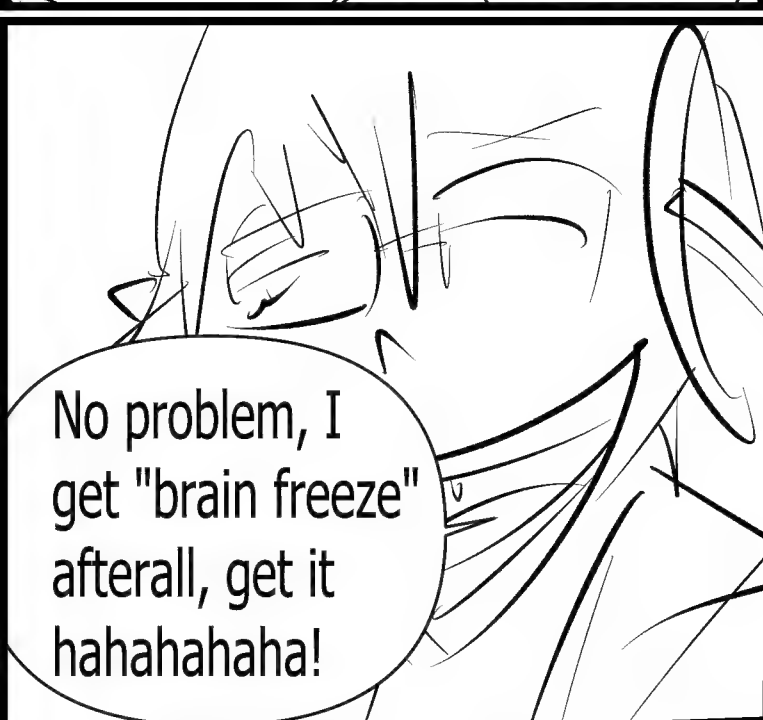


back in the
present...

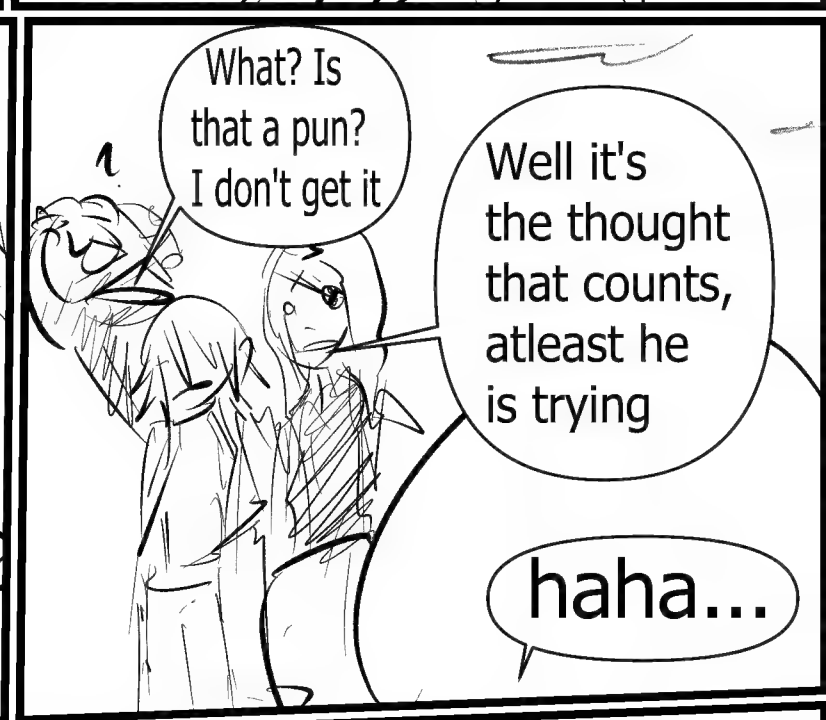
Just had
to report
another
mission
without
fruitful
results



So what
no ice cream
for me?




No problem, I
get "brain freeze"
afterall, get it
hahahahaha!




What? Is
that a pun?
I don't get it

Well it's
the thought
that counts,
atleast he
is trying

haha...



Strange I
thought that
dad jokes were
supposed to
atleast make
sense, even
if they are
unfunny...



Maybe if
you said:

No ice ream?
You really
"screwed" me
over!

I-I
mean
sorry!

Hihih...

Good going
biting the hand
that feeds us,
now we will
be living on the
street for sure

Haha,
no no, I agree,
I should have
constructed
the punchline
more diligently

But what
is this about
getting trown
out and living
on the street?

Ah, he just
found out
the reason
for your
shotgun
wedding

Don't call
it that!

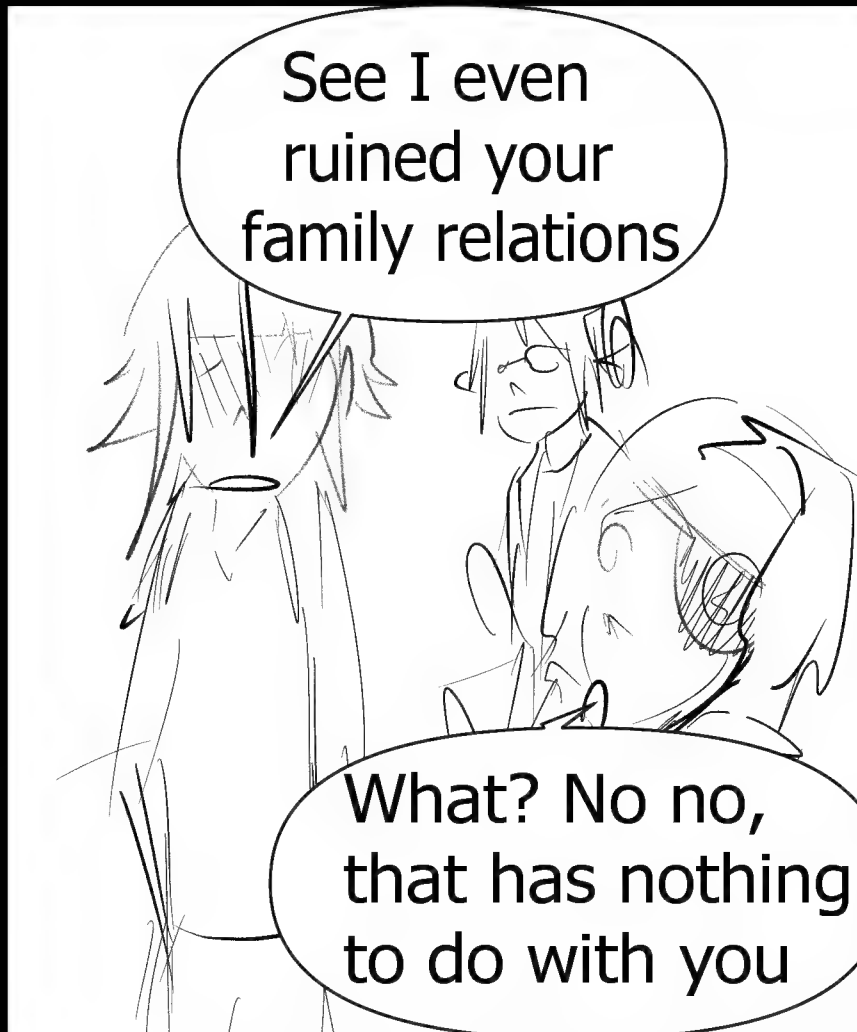
Calm
down!

Even if a
literal shotgun
wedding would
be kinda funny...

I wish,
atleast
then they
would have
shown up
for it...

You better
take responsibility
or you will have
another hole in
your head

* Swish *

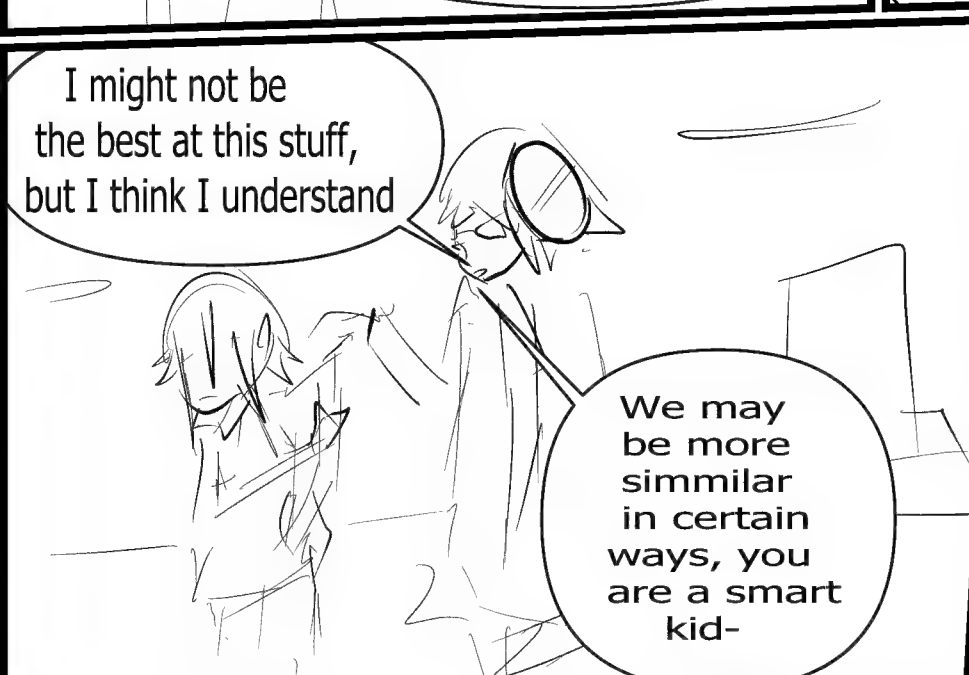


See I even
ruined your
family relations

What? No no,
that has nothing
to do with you

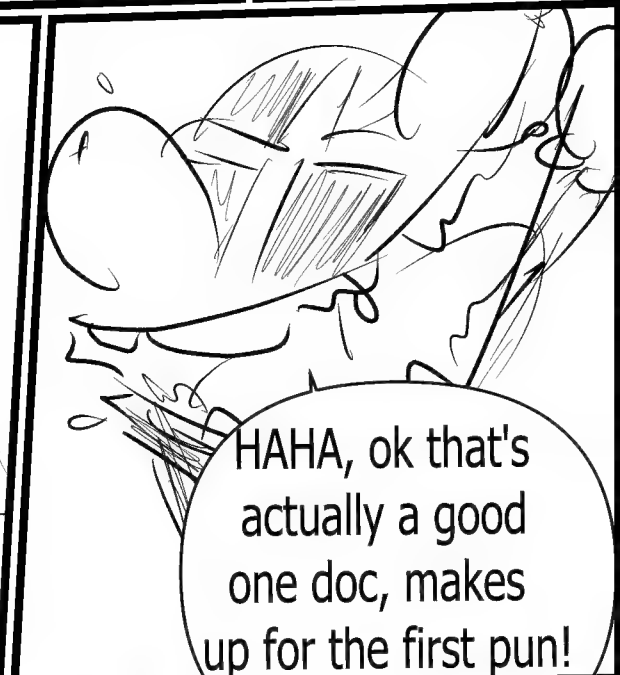


Listen



I might not be
the best at this stuff,
but I think I understand

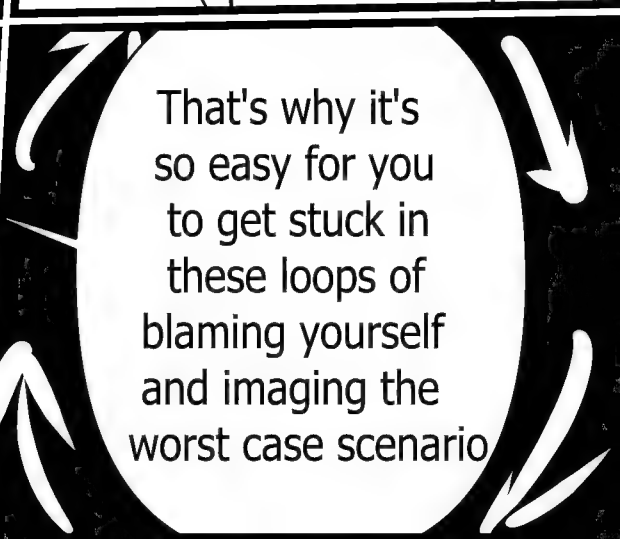
We may
be more
simillar
in certain
ways, you
are a smart
kid-



HAHA, ok that's
actually a good
one doc, makes
up for the first pun!



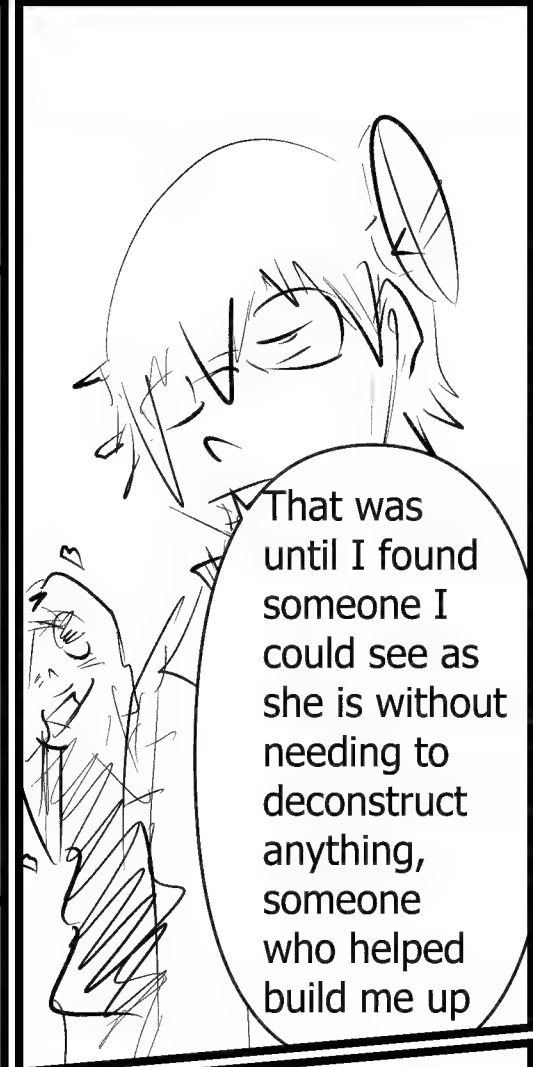
No, I'm
being
quite
serious



That's why it's
so easy for you
to get stuck in
these loops of
blaming yourself
and imaging the
worst case scenario



Believe me, I speak from experience, just unlike you I wasn't focused on tearing myself apart but every aspect of the world



That was until I found someone I could see as she is without needing to deconstruct anything, someone who helped build me up



If that was true, if I wasn't dumb like you say, I shouldn't have thought that I was stupid in the first place because if I can't even figure that out then I must really be an idiot and if I thought right then I am still an idiot so either way I'm stupid...

Agree!



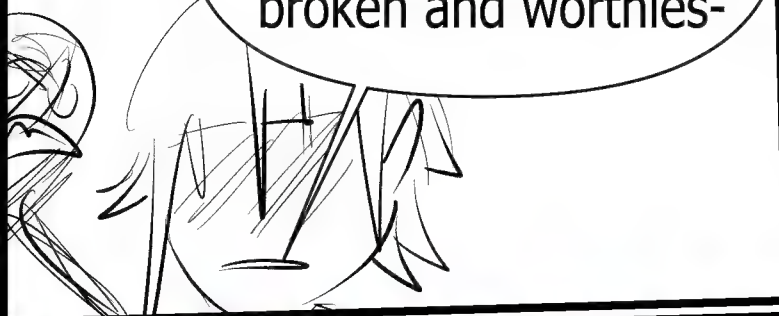
Well if you weren't smart you wouldn't have come up with such an pedantic answer on the spot!



One explanation for this phenomenon is that being intelligent doesn't allways mean that you aren't naive

Frank, we are supposed to be supportive, not insulting!

It is not surprising that a very trusting person raised in witch society would internalise that hesitation to kill and destroy as weaknesses, leading one to self loath and be insecure in ones worth



Then it just confirms it, I'm fundemantaly broken and worthless-

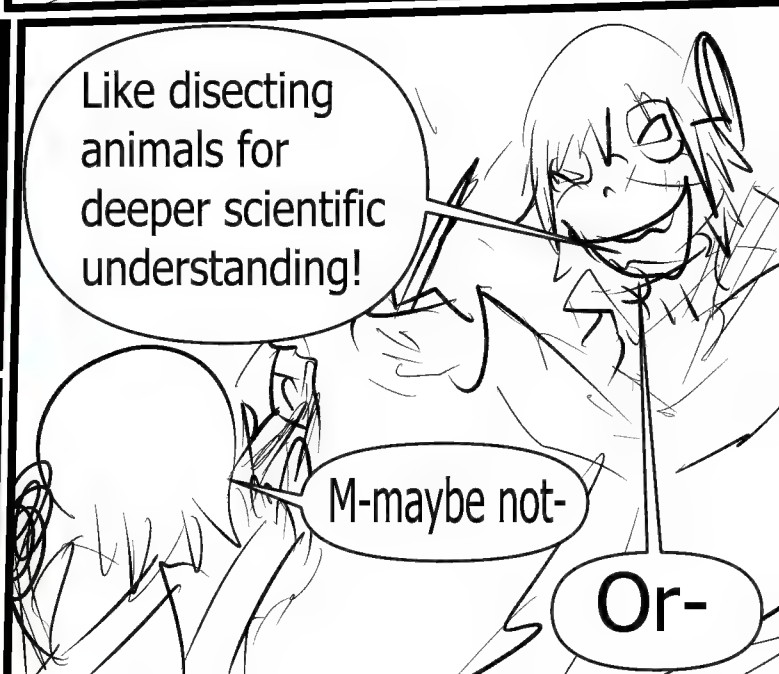


Shut up and listen for once!

Hmm this is exactly what I'm describing

You are trapped in a spiral of negative thoughts about yourself

The solution is to redirect these loops elsewhere



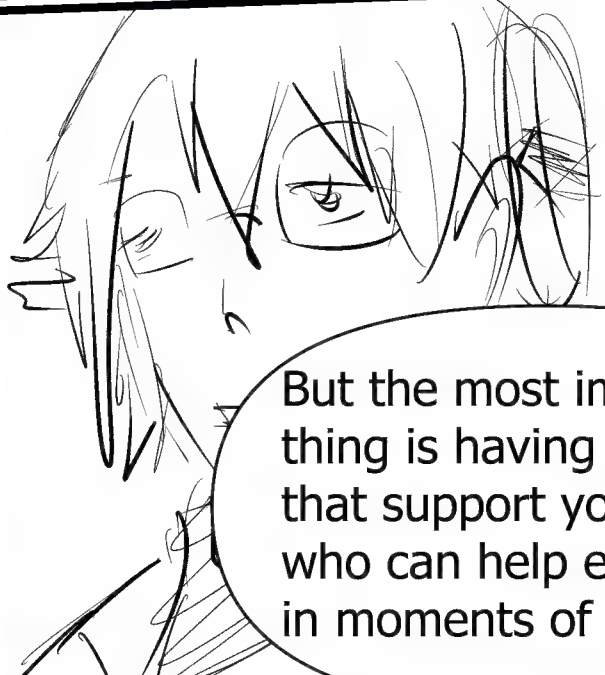
Like dissecting animals for deeper scientific understanding!

M-maybe not-


Or-

Reading books,
like you already
do with Maka,
even if I don't
understand how
someone can
read non-fiction

Or focusing on
self improving
your fighting
techniques and
developing new
moves and tactics



But the most important
thing is having people
that support you and
who can help each other
in moments of struggle

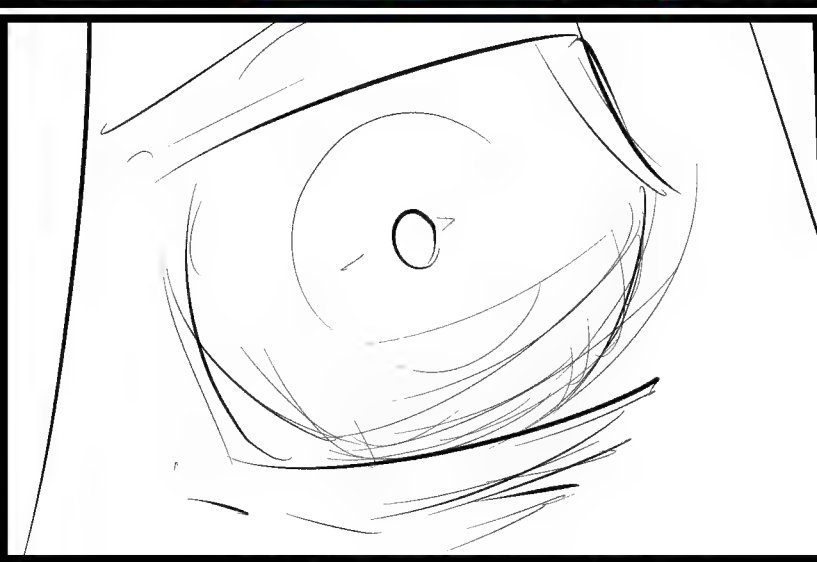
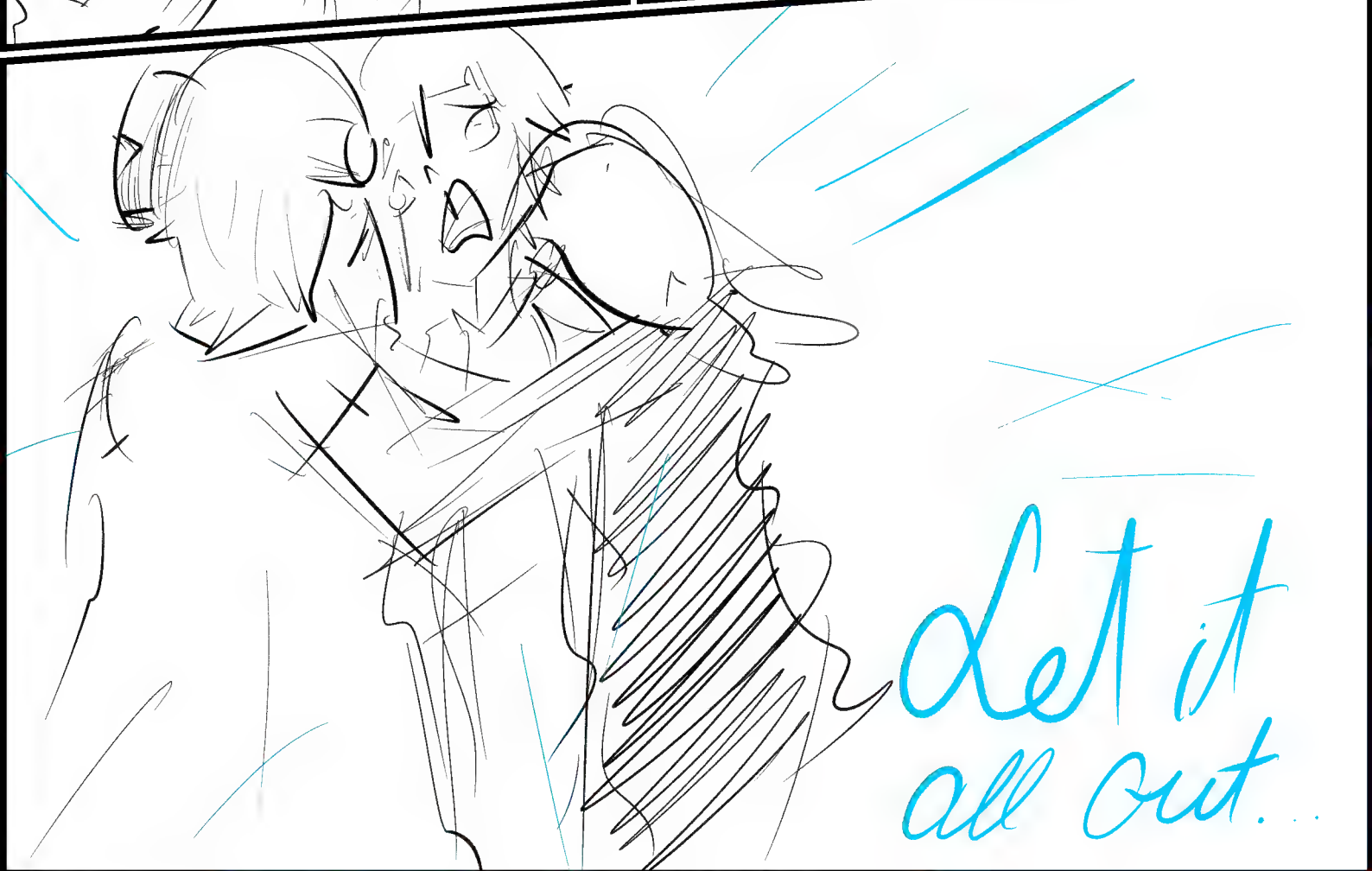


B-but help
from others,
do I really
deserve it
after all-

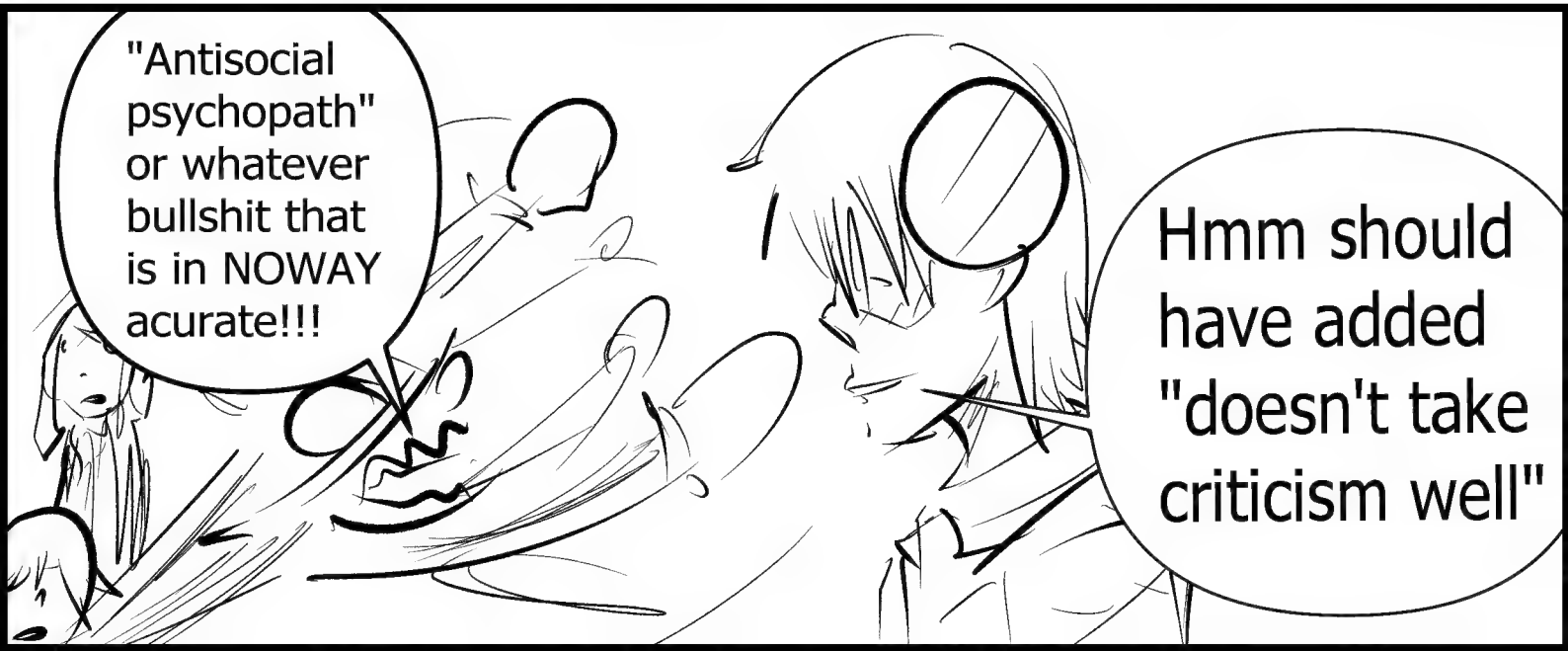


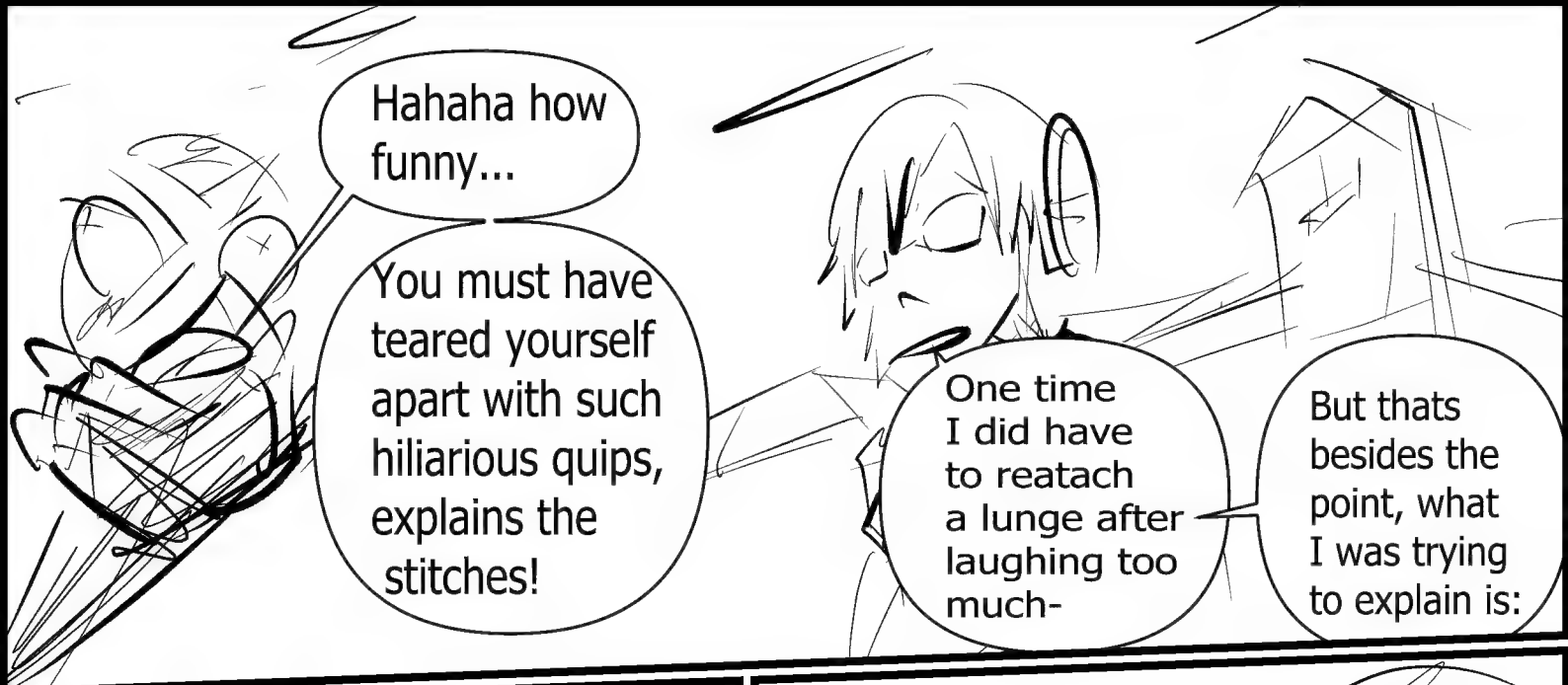
Crona...

How those witches
could be so horrible
to fill someone as
big hearted as you
full of self hate...









Hahaha how funny...

You must have teared yourself apart with such hilarious quips, explains the stitches!

One time I did have to reattach a lunge after laughing too much-

But thats besides the point, what I was trying to explain is:



"ignoring social norms"

" violent sadistic tendencies"



These were the same labels that were put on me in the past

And I won't deny that at one point they were right

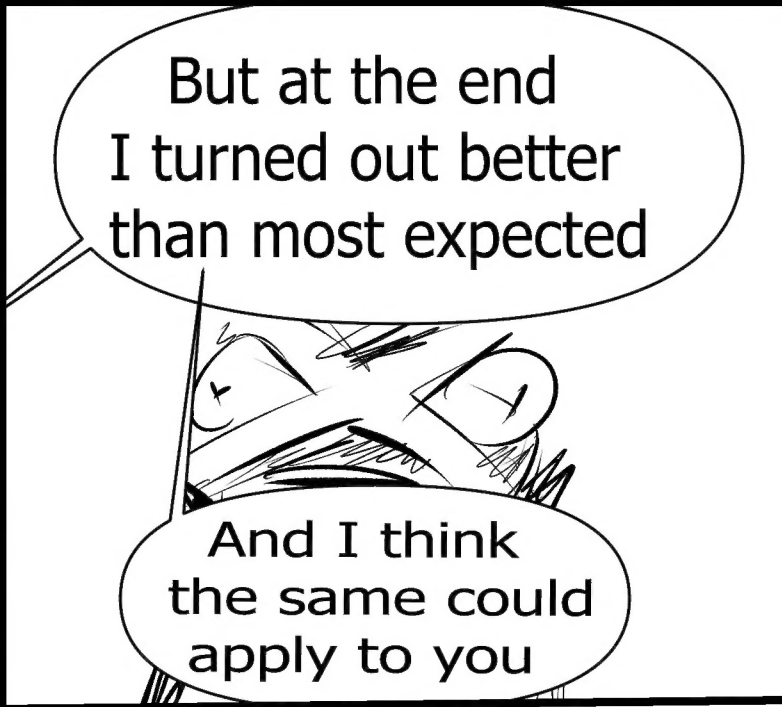


Even at the nexus of order, the DWMA, I needed to be literally held back from cutting up other students just for the fun of it

Maybe it was because of trauma or abuse, maybe it was just how I was

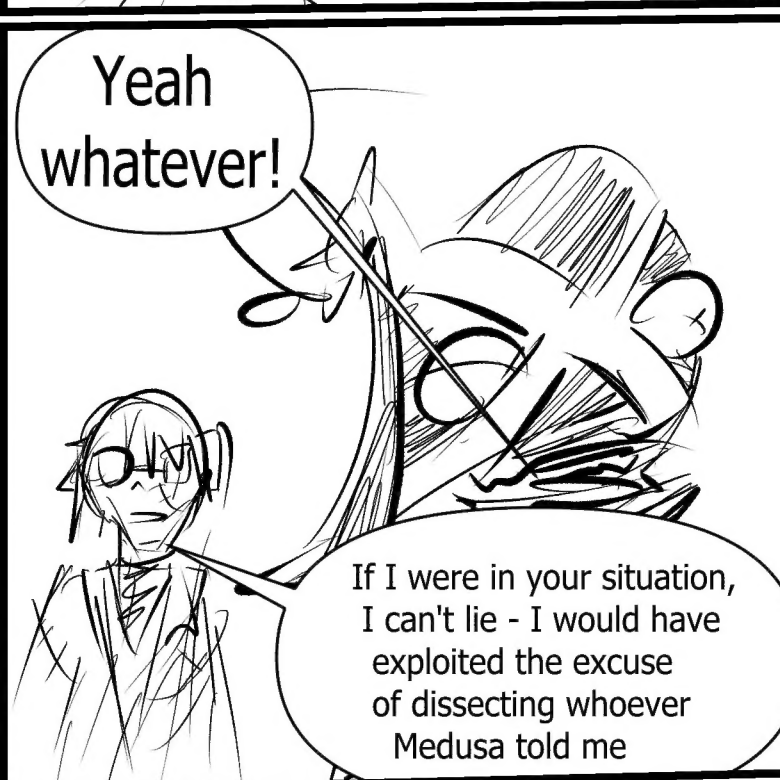


In many ways
I'm still like that,
just under control



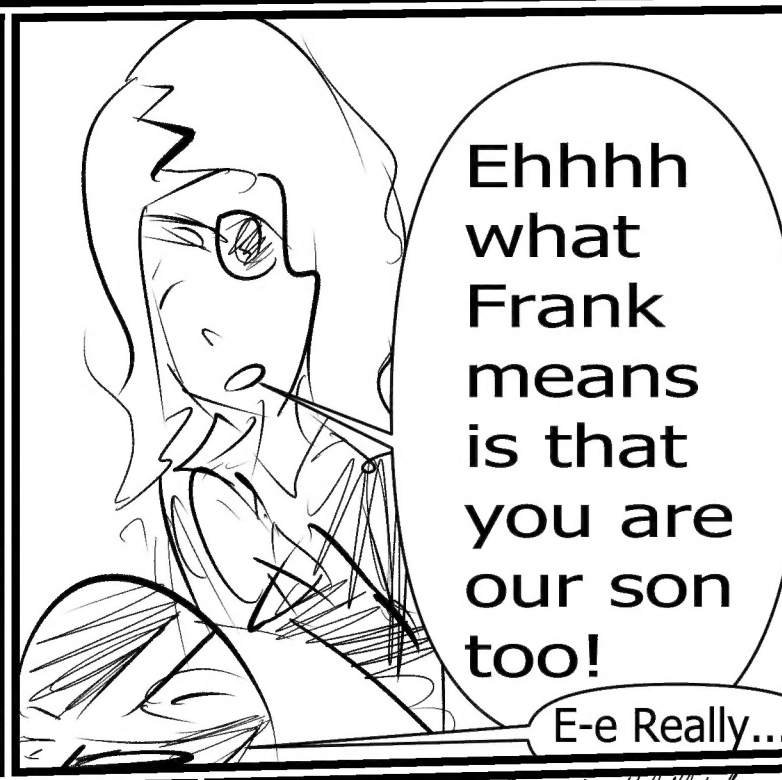
But at the end
I turned out better
than most expected

And I think
the same could
apply to you



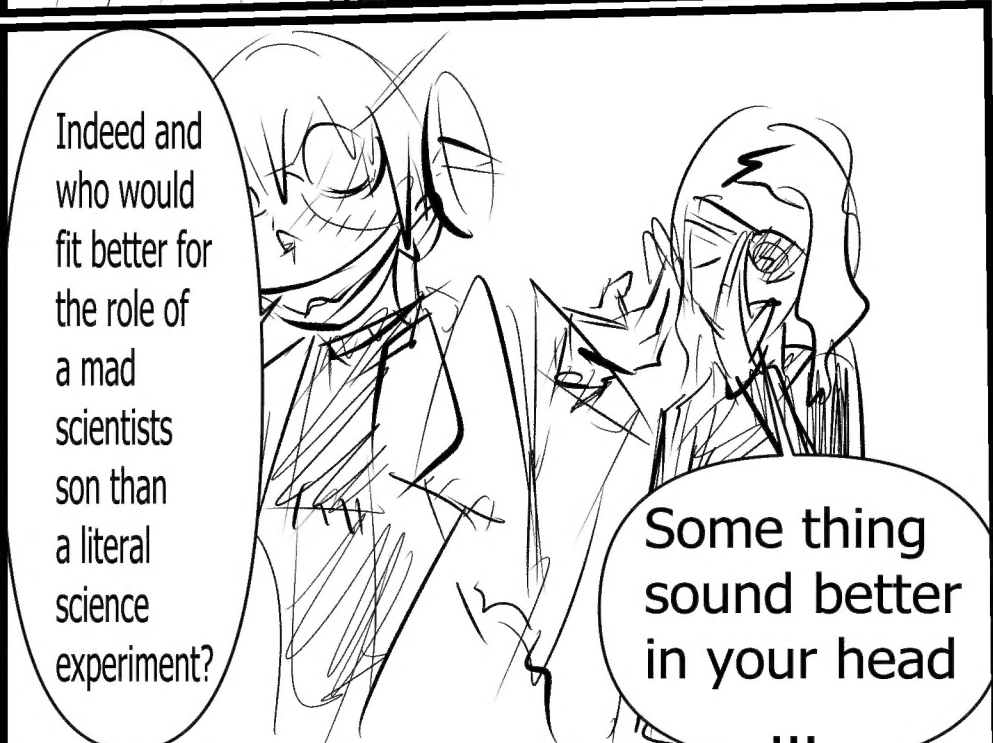
Yeah
whatever!

If I were in your situation,
I can't lie - I would have
exploited the excuse
of dissecting whoever
Medusa told me



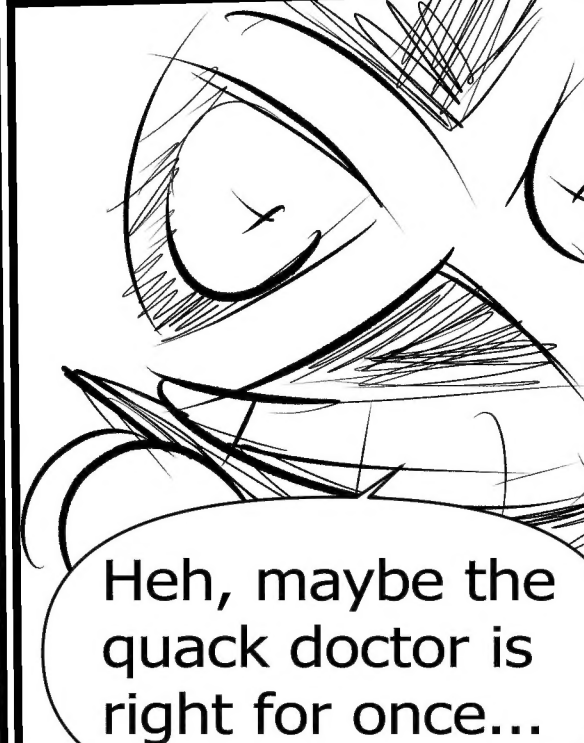
Ehhhh
what
Frank
means
is that
you are
our son
too!

E-e Really...



Indeed and
who would
fit better for
the role of
a mad
scientists
son than
a literal
science
experiment?

Some thing
sound better
in your head
...



Heh, maybe the
quack doctor is
right for once...



I mean even you weirdos make for better parents than that snake witch so who am I to complain!

Her...



That's wonderful to hear! I promise that we will be better than that monster!



With all that cleared it's back to work for me

Wait, but we just-



pfuuu... Oh you are here, great, do you know where my dear Maka is?



Hello
Mr. Death
Scythe...

Did you want
to tell Maka
about how
contacting Soul
went?



Of course I
would-



Wait...
Oh no-

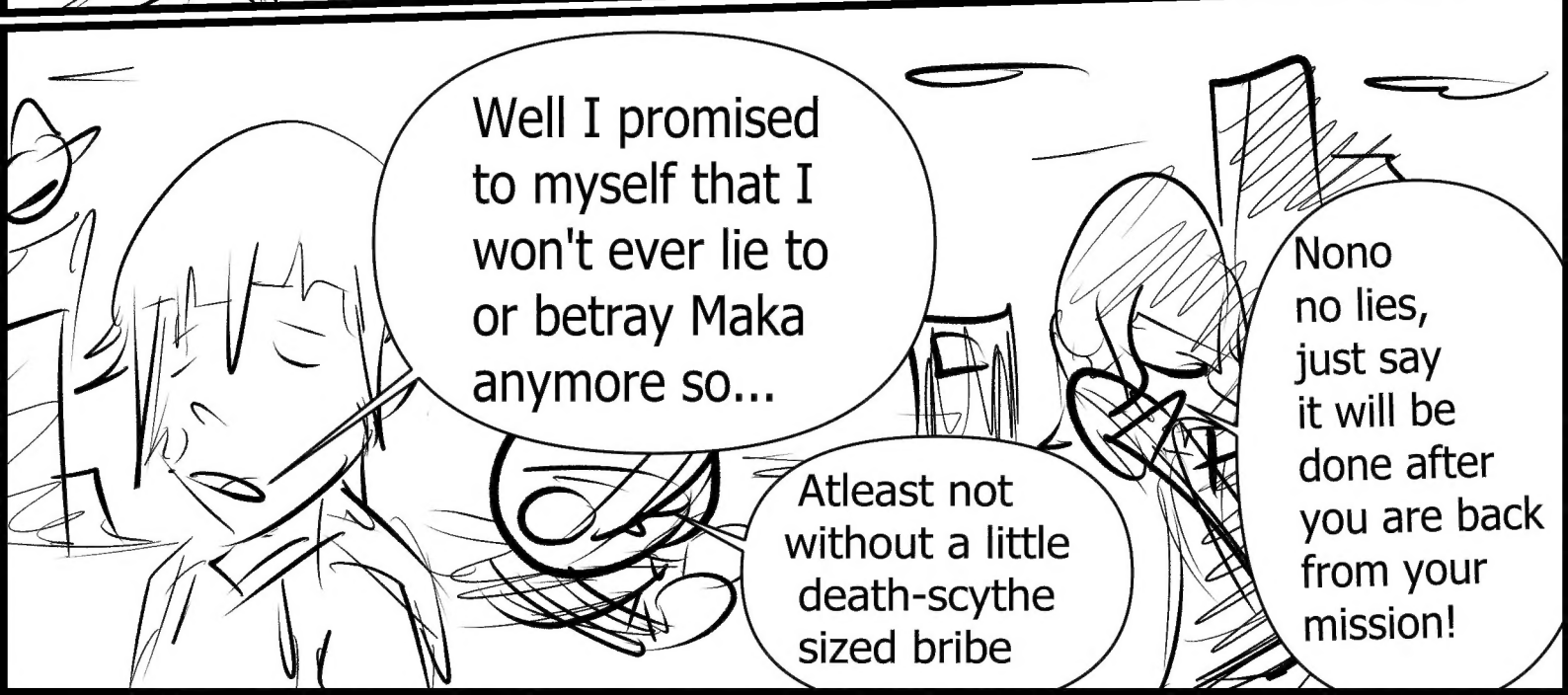


Eeeeh- let's just
say I didn't "forget"
but- but I, eh was
bussy and I-

Oh, Maka
won't like
hearing that...



Hehe... It's
not like she
has to find
out right now



Well I promised
to myself that I
won't ever lie to
or betray Maka
anymore so...

Atleast not
without a little
death-scythe
sized bribe

Nono
no lies,
just say
it will be
done after
you are back
from your
mission!




Mission?


Yes you two have been assigned to assist Justin in locating a rouge wtch



A witch...
Of course, I'm on my way!




Oh right now, ok good luck



Thank you for everything, I'll be back soon, Mom, Dad!

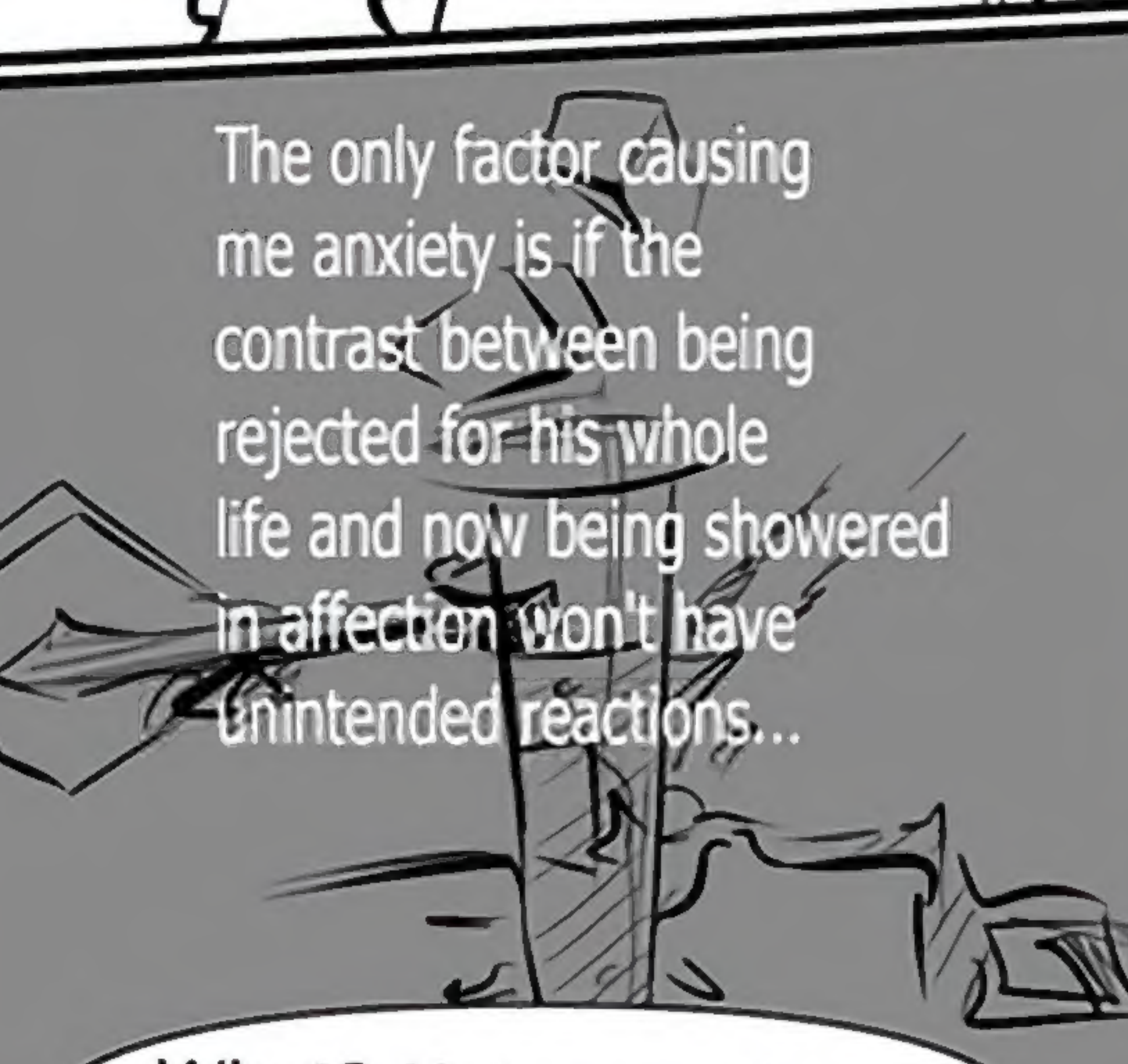
Keep safe kids!



Hmm, didn't remember him every being so confident...


I just hope they both come back home safe and sound..

I wouldn't be concerned about that, especially with both Maka and Justin being there



The only factor causing me anxiety is if the contrast between being rejected for his whole life and now being showered in affection won't have unintended reactions...

What? Not everything is a science expirement!



How could love lead to anything bad?

Hmm... Maybe I am just overthinking it...

Chapter
15 END